

China warns Japan

BEIJING (AP) — China warned Saturday that it and other Asian countries invaded by Japan in World War II will react strongly if Japan sends troops to the Gulf. "The Chinese government and the Chinese people are greatly concerned" about the proposed troop deployment, Chinese Vice-Minister Qi Huiyuan told Japanese Ambassador Hiroshi Hashimoto. The Xinhua News Agency said Qi also warned Japan against allowing renovation of a lighthouse in an East China Sea island chain that both countries claim. The two issues have abruptly strained Chinese-Japanese relations, which had improved recently with Japan's decision to resume development aid to China. Japan, along with the other industrialized democracies, halted aid and high-level contacts with China to protest its attack on pro-democracy protesters in Beijing last year. Qi's warning, however, signalled that China will not put its hopes for Japanese loans ahead of its fears of Japanese militarism. China has been increasingly critical since Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu proposed sending troops to the Gulf in a U.N.-sponsored peacekeeping force. Japan's parliament is now debating the proposal.

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Violence mars Pakistan polls

ISLAMABAD (AP) — At least 33 people were killed, as many as 50 injured and the son of the caretaker prime minister was targeted in violence surrounding provincial election Saturday, officials said. Officials said it was the bloodiest election in Pakistan's 43-year history. Until Saturday's vote, a 1977 election in which a dozen people died was the most violent. Voters Saturday were electing four provincial legislatures. A right-wing coalition that thwarted ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's return to power took an early lead, according to returns. The loose-knit Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA), a coalition of 18 diverse parties, will form the next national government. Three days earlier, IDA defeated Bhutto's populist Pakistan People's Party (PPP) by more than a 2-to-1 margin in parliamentary elections. That vote also was marred by violence. Bhutto, denied a second chance to lead this predominantly Muslim country of 110 million people, accused the army-backed caretaker government of rigging Wednesday's election. A team of international poll watchers rejected the charge.

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Ripert report distributed

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's permanent representative at the United Nations, Abdullah Salah, said Saturday that a report prepared by special U.N. envoy Jean Ripert was distributed Friday to the U.N. member states. The report covers assistance to Jordan. A conference of donor countries is scheduled to be held in Rome on Nov. 5 on compensation for countries affected by the Security Council Resolution 661. Salah said in an interview with Radio Jordan Saturday that Jordan's adherence to the resolution will improve the American position towards it in this regard.

Israel's U.N. envoy presents credentials

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Israel's new U.N. representative, Ambassador Yoram Aridor, submitted his credentials Friday to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Aridor, who was finance minister from 1981 to 1983 and communications minister in 1981, will succeed acting permanent representative Johanan Bein, who will take up a senior foreign ministry post.

Iraq eases fuel ration

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has eased petrol rationing for big-engined cars, along with trucks and buses, oil ministry sources said Saturday. Iraq, which has the world's second largest known oil reserves, began petrol rationing last Tuesday. The curb on private motorists was aimed at conserving stocks of vital imported chemicals and additives needed to refine oil into petrol, ensuring adequate supplies for the million-strong armed forces. Iraq will increase fuel allowances for vehicles with powerful six and eight cylinder engines from next week, the sources said.

Levy fears Gulf compromise

PARIS (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy fears that a compromise solution to the Gulf crisis would perpetuate "damages" from Iraq and leave its power intact, a French newspaper reported Saturday. "We are afraid the world will leave Iraq's terrible arsenal intact and that by acting this way, the Iraqi danger will be perpetuated," he said in an article in Le Monde. Levy was commenting on reports about a possible compromise solution.

French legislator in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — A French envoy arrived in Beirut Saturday to discuss tense relations between Lebanon and France, official sources said. They said the two-day visit of parliamentarian Gerard Bapt, also president of the French-Lebanese Friendship Society, was in response to an invitation from Parliament Speaker Hussein Hussein. Bapt told reporters at the airport that "this is a friendship visit to Lebanon. It is also a visit to explain a series of issues raised in Parliament about the position of President (François) Mitterrand or the majority in the French parliament."

U.S. fears attacks in Mideast

WASHINGTON (AP) — Extremists could be planning an attack on a passenger ship in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea, or an aircraft in Europe or the Middle East, the State Department said Friday night. A statement from the department's deputy spokesman, Richard Boucher, said "the risk of acts of international terrorism in Europe and the Middle East is increasing." He said the department had received "specific and credible" information about a threat to ships in the Eastern Mediterranean, and added, "such an operation may be undertaken at any time. We note that civil aviation remains a particular target." The department issued its warning at the unusual hour of after 8 p.m. (0000 GMT) Friday in part because, "it is important that we share the threat information with the American people as they plan their travel," said another spokesman, Adam Shub.

Gorbachev says Iraq could be softening stand

Primakov arrives in Baghdad

MADRID (Agencies) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said Saturday Iraq could be softening its position in the Gulf conflict and pledged to continue Moscow's diplomatic efforts to find a solution without bloodshed.

Gorbachev, at a news conference with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, repeated Moscow's insistence that peace initiatives had to be pursued to defuse the crisis created by Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

"The Soviet Union... has this possibility and must use it in our general interests," he said. "Moreover, in recent days, there have been signals that within the Iraqi leadership there is an understanding that a solution cannot be achieved through ultimatums."

Gorbachev, whose envoy Yevgeny Primakov was heading for Baghdad Saturday, did not elaborate on how or why he felt the Iraqi position was changing. Emphasis on the crisis was expected to continue Sunday evening when Gorbachev travels to Paris for a 24-hour visit that includes talks with French President Francois Mitterrand.

In the news conference, Gorbachev ruled out using military force against Iraq. He cited the suffering such action would cause the Iraqi people and the 3,000 Soviet specialists remaining in Iraq.

"Until the very end, we must take advantage of everything within our reach to find a peaceful solution to this problem," Gorbachev said.

Gorbachev also said there were indications there might be changes in the hardline position within the Iraqi leadership toward the Gulf crisis.

"In recent days, there are signals that in the Iraqi leadership there is an understanding that solution of problems cannot be achieved through ultimatums," Gorbachev said in Russian translated into Spanish. "I may be mistaken, and the coming days maybe will bring some clarification."

The private French television station La Cinq said Friday that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had sent letters to both Mitterrand and Gorbachev expressing his readiness to discuss Middle East problems, including Kuwait.

French officials denied knowledge of any letters, and Soviet officials in Madrid, including Gorbachev and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, were not available for comment.

Gorbachev told the news conference he did not want to think about the full impact of any military action in the Gulf region but said it would be "far from what we desire."

He sidestepped a question about the implications of the possible dispatch of another 100,000 U.S. troops to the region and also refused to comment on Primakov's mission, his second to the Middle East in a month.

Primakov expressed optimism in Cairo Friday about finding a peaceful solution.

After stops in Syria and Egypt, both of whom have troops in a 350,000-strong international military force facing Iraq, Primakov said in Cairo he believed a peaceful solution could be found.

"I am convinced that the Gulf crisis could be solved without recourse to military force," he said on Friday after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

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Compromise reached on new anti-Iraq resolution

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The United Nations Security Council Saturday reached agreement on a resolution making Iraq liable for war damages as result of its invasion of Kuwait and asking governments to compile evidence on alleged human rights violations and financial losses.

Council President David Hanan of Britain predicted a "massive vote in favour" of the document when the 15-nation body was to reconvene later Saturday.

Following two days of haggling that threatened to break the council's unity, members agreed on softer wording the United States wanted on Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's role in seeking a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Columbia, Cuba, Malaysia and Yemen wanted him to initiate peace talks within the framework of previous council resolutions while the United States feared a heavy emphasis on diplomacy would send the wrong signal to Iraq.

The council had suspended negotiations early Saturday with

Yemen, the body's only Arab member, accusing Washington of making last-minute changes on wording after non-aligned states had agreed to substantial compromises.

The lengthy new document is designed to keep the pressure on Iraq and turn the council back to the Gulf crisis after more than two weeks of debate on Iraq's brutal handling of the Palestinian uprising.

The new resolution is the 10th since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. In previous resolutions, the council has isolated Iraq with an economic embargo and permitted U.N. member countries to use warships in the Gulf to enforce it.

The council also has demanded that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait and release all foreign nationals.

The draft resolution invites nations, companies and individuals to document their damage and losses for the council, but does not establish a system for making claims against Baghdad.

The proposal also demands that Iraq stop taking "hostages"

and "mistreating and oppressing Kuwaiti and third-state nationals."

The draft resolution also says Iraq must allow the immediate provision of food, water and basic services to diplomats and foreigners in diplomatic missions in Kuwait City.

The United States has agreed to send a general to an informal meeting Monday of the U.N. Security Council's military arm, but it was seen more as a gesture to the Soviet Union than a move towards a unified United Nations military command, the Washington Post said Saturday.

Citing U.S. and diplomatic sources, the Post said the meeting was intended to explore other ways of expanding the committee's role, such as coordinating the activities of the forces confronting Iraq in the Gulf.

The Post said that since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the Soviet Union has been pressing for a larger role for the military committee, which the United Nations Charter designates as the world body's highest military authority.

(Continued on page 5)

Bush in flurry of contacts over Gulf

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush and his top advisers will decide next week whether to expand Secretary of State James Baker's mission to bolster the coalition against Iraq.

Baker is headed to Saudi Arabia for talks, and Egypt is almost certain to be added to his programme.

Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One bound for Hawaii, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Baker and the Saudis would discuss "the implementation of U.N. sanctions, the status of U.S. and multinational forces in the Gulf, general defence needs, Arab unity and military options."

Fitzwater announced the trip in Los Angeles, where Bush was making a campaign appearance. The president had talked by telephone Thursday with Saudi King Fahd and with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Fitzwater said Bush also talked to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, who will visit Washington next month; and Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers.

Besides trying to hold the coalition together, the administration wants to make sure the Western Europeans support the drive to force an Iraqi pullout from Kuwait.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said Thursday that up to 100,000 additional U.S. troops would be sent to the Gulf in response to what he said was the continuing buildup and fortification of Iraqi forces in Kuwait.

A decision to send Baker to Egypt and possibly other Arab countries will be made when Bush meets next week with his four principal advisers — Baker, Cheney, National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell — said officials who requested anonymity.

Fitzwater denied a news report that Baker would ask Saudi Arabia for permission for U.S.-led forces in the Gulf to launch an attack against Iraq.

"That's not true. We want the United Nations resolutions to be complied with," Fitzwater said. There are fears in Washington the anti-Iraq coalition may be weakening as world leaders contemplate the awesome possibility

(Continued on page 5)



Israeli forces ban an Arab driver and passengers from entering occupied Jerusalem.

King sends message to Saddam on Gulf crisis

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a message to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on the Gulf crisis.

The message, delivered by Prime Minister Moudar Badran, dealt with "the close brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries and current developments of the situation in the region," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, also carried a similar report.

Saddam asked Badran to convey to King Hussein his praise for Jordan's "courageous, pan-Arab stand," INA added.

The King's message focused on "the developments in the Gulf region and prospects for peace in the region," Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddine told the AP.

King Hussein has made several tours to seek an Arab solution to the crisis.

Badran, who was accompanied

by Royal Court Chief Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker, returned home later Saturday.

The meeting in Baghdad was attended by Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council Vice-President Izzat Ibrahim and members of the council, Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan, Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi and Minister of Culture and Information Latif Jassem.

The closure cut off about 110,000 about 150,000 Palestinians from jobs in Israel. The ministry's statement did not elaborate, and it was not immediately known how many of these will be affected by the new restrictions.

At present, several thousands Palestinians, who have been banned from travelling to Israel for "security" offences, carry special orange-coloured identity cards.

However, Defence Minister Moshe Arens "has instructed to impose new security restrictions on the issue of entry permits to Israel. The right to enter Israel will be denied from those taking part in hostile activities," it said.

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Israel orders fresh 'security' moves

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians in the occupied territories will be allowed to reenter starting Sunday, but will face new "security" restrictions, the occupation army announced Saturday.

More than 1.7 million Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have been confined to the occupied territories since Wednesday following a wave of Arab-Jewish street violence that left five people dead and 11 injured.

"As of tomorrow, the Arab inhabitants of Judea, Samaria (West Bank) and the Gaza district will be permitted to reenter the state of Israel," the Israeli defence ministry said in a statement.

However, Defence Minister Moshe Arens "has instructed to impose new security restrictions on the issue of entry permits to Israel. The right to enter Israel will be denied from those taking part in hostile activities," it said.

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Israeli version of massacre unlikely to quell debate

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel's much-awaited report on the Oct. 9 bloodbath in occupied Jerusalem is finally out, but the debate on the shootings still rages in Israel and the findings are unlikely to silence it.

The 59-page report, released Friday, exonerated police for using live gunfire against Palestinian protesters but admitted that police fired indiscriminately at one point in the incident.

The three-man investigative team appointed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir accused Palestinians of provoking the incident but levelled stinging criticism at senior police commanders for ignoring signs that violence could easily break out during prayer services at the Al Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest shrine.

The report drew immediate criticism from Israeli leftists and Palestinians.

"The impression given by the first announcement of the report is that the committee sees the deaths of about 20 Palestinians and the injury of more than 100 Palestinians as a necessary cost of maintaining order," said legislator Yair Tsaaban of the Mapam Party.

"If this is true, this report will create great dissonance not only in the world, but in Israel," he said. Tzvi Reshef of the Leftist Peace Now movement said the report "leaves many hard questions unanswered. It seems to me that in the whole world, this report will be received with very little credibility."

Even before the conclusions

were released, Israeli liberals argued that the makeup of the commission was inadequate to ensure an independent investigation. The committee was headed by Zvi Zamir, a former director of the Mossad spy agency and did not have the power to subpoena witnesses.

Israel's right-wing parties applauded the report, saying it strengthened Israel's assertion that Arabs were chiefly to blame for "provoking" the shooting. "It was shown without doubt that there was a clear provocation on the part of (Arab) worshippers... there was no other choice but to respond in this way," said Religious Affairs Minister Avner Shalev of the National Religious Party.

Yuval Neeman, of the nationalist Tehiya Party, suggested that instead of focusing on police actions, the government should now look into "the Arab provocation that caused this event" and deal with those responsible.

The U.N. Security Council, in an Oct. 12 resolution, condemned the use of excessive force to quell the protest and Wednesday it deplored Israel's refusal to accept a U.N. investigation of the shootings. Both resolutions were backed by the United States.

In the Oct. 8 massacre, more than 140 people were wounded by gunshots in addition to those killed, according to hospitals. Police initially listed 19 dead, but Friday's report increased the toll to 20.

In Israel, two political parties — the liberal Shinui Party and the Communists — have called on

the government to cooperate with a U.N. probe. Palestinian leaders rejected the findings and demanded a U.N. investigation.

The Israeli committee "simply shifts the blame for the killings on the Palestinian shoulders to alleviate the mounting international criticism against Israel," said Said Khaman.

Faisal Hussein of Arab Jerusalem called the investigating team "an editing committee that was just making a formula for the position of the Israeli government. I believe that we must have a neutral committee that can come from the United Nations."

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Israeli authorities have provided the U.S. Embassy with a copy of the commission report. He said it was given to the embassy about the time it was made public to the press on Friday.

"The report is in the process of being translated, and of course it will be studied," Boucher said. "At this point we don't have an assessment for you of that report."

While the administration hopes Perez de Cuellar takes the report into account "as an expression of the Israeli views" concerning the incident, it is up to the Israelis to deliver the report to him, Boucher said. The United States continues to believe that a mission sent by the secretary general should be allowed to go to Israel to conduct its own investigation, Boucher said.

U.S. lists taboo topics for troops in S. Arabia

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Defense Department is advising U.S. troops to avoid discussions about the "Jewish lobby" with their Saudi hosts. Also on a list of taboo subjects are sexual commercials for perfume and lingerie.

The following items and topics should be avoided or handled carefully, according to a pamphlet written by the U.S. Central Command for distribution to some of the estimated 200,000 troops in and around Saudi Arabia.

"At the top of the list of 15 'sensitive' items are 'articles and stories showing U.S.-Israeli ties and friendship.' Other strictures include discussion of 'anti-Arab demonstrations or sentiments in the United States' and of 'U.S. involvement in supporting Israel and Israel's current presence in Lebanon.'"

The Pentagon advises troops to carry the booklet at all times. Also to be avoided, it suggests, is discussing or showing "sexual advertisements for perfume, blue jeans, women's lingerie, gambling, alcohol, etc.; ads for pork or shellfish (which are forbidden by Islam)."

Other out-of-bounds topics include: "Discussing the 'Jewish lobby' and U.S. intelligence given to Israel."

"Referring to the Arab blacklisting of U.S. companies that do business with Israel or the Arab boycotting of companies that have strong Zionist representation in executive positions."

The letter has drawn protests from Jewish groups. Writing to Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, the World Jewish Congress (WJC) said it wishes to convey "our sense of distress at what appears to be a capitulation to bigotry and a surrender of our democratic values."

The letter, from WJC Vice President Kalman Sultnik, urges that the material be withdrawn from circulation.

The American Jewish Committee, expressing to Cheney its "deep sense of hurt and anger," says U.S. troops should not be asked to "submerge entirely those values of tolerance, pluralism, and open-mindedness that have made the U.S. a unique democratic society."

The Defense Department and State Department, mindful of the vast cultural and religious differences between Saudis and Americans, have issued a number of booklets setting out "Do's and Don'ts" since the troops began arriving in the Gulf in August.

Most of the pamphlets include a brief history of Saudi Arabia and its monarchy, and explanations of the strict Muslim code which governs Saudis' behaviour. Alcohol is out for Muslims and for foreign troops; so is socialising with Saudi women.

Iraq denies offering any deal to Germany

BONN (R) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz has denied German claims that Baghdad had offered to free Germans if Bonn sent its foreign minister to Iraq.

Aziz, in a television interview done in Baghdad and broadcast here, said his country would react favourably to a greater German role in seeking peace between Iraq and the multinational force lined up against it.

German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said earlier Friday Iraq had offered to free Germans on a string of conditions, including a visit by him to Baghdad.

"No, it was not really such a bargain," Aziz said.

He said Iraq had let Germany know through diplomatic channels it wanted Bonn to be more active in peace efforts in the Gulf.

"If the Iraqi people feel that a certain government is playing an active role to achieve peace, then it will react positively."

"We have the feeling that when people visit Iraq for reasonable talks with us it creates a climate for better mutual understanding, and then a new atmosphere arises that might encourage the members of our national assembly to do something for the nationals involved," Aziz said.

The Iraqi parliament voted this week to free all French nationals in an apparent effort to break the United Western front opposing Iraq.

Baghdad has been holding nearly 400 Germans among more than 2,000 Westerners and Japanese seized in Iraq and Kuwait after the invasion.

Genscher said a mission by him to Iraq was one of several conditions set by Baghdad for a release, but he declined to specify the other terms or say if the offer

applied to all Germans it holds. He told reporters Bonn would in no way break from international solidarity against Iraq.

Genscher spoke after meeting British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd on the eve of a European Community (EC) summit in Rome, where the Gulf crisis is certain to be a major topic.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl earlier told Hurd in Bonn that he expected the EC to work for the release of Westerners held in Iraq and Kuwait.

"The chancellor once more made it clear his special interest in this issue being discussed at the EC summit in Rome this weekend," Hurd said, adding:

"The goal is for all foreigners in Iraq to be allowed to leave, that international solidarity be maintained, and that in Rome a corresponding initiative of the European Community can be made."

Four more Germans arrived home Friday after a visit to Iraq by the chairman of the Cologne-based construction company they work for.

Nine Germans were freed last week after a private mission to Iraq by German politicians, but government and opposition leaders agreed in talks Wednesday to delay any trip there by former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt.

Canada: No envoy

Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said Friday that sending a special envoy to win the release of Canadians stranded in Iraq would only play into the hands of Baghdad.

"I think a special envoy is a ploy of Saddam Hussein for publicity purposes to destabilise the solidarity of the alliance," Mulroney told reporters.

Murphy outlines possible plan to 'disarm' Iraq

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Any military action against Iraq is going to cause significant civilian as well as military casualties and will hold an implication for the future balance of power in the region, according to Richard Murphy, a senior fellow at the Middle East Council on Foreign Relations.

"It will take an extraordinary, sustained effort on the part of the world community to do anything but go to war" in order to contain Iraq's power in the years ahead, Murphy said.

"To secure the peace it is necessary to prepare for war," the former assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian Affairs told the National Council of World Affairs Organisations Friday.

Murphy's remarks came in panel discussion on "Perspectives on the Gulf, which included Dr. Phebe Marr, senior fellow at the Institute for National Strategic Studies, Richard Barnett, president of the Institute for Policy Studies, and Dr. Martin Indyk, executive director for the Washington Institute for Near East Policy."

The world community must implement a "package" of steps which he stressed, must be a total initiative from which "no step can be dropped in order to contain Iraq's power."

The package would have eight steps:

1. Implement a world-wide arms embargo, for a minimum of five years, to deplete Iraq's present arms supply. "In particular, Iraq's traditional suppliers, the French and the Soviets must refrain from all arms sales to Iraq for five years or longer."

2. Develop a regional security structure with Arab forces at its core, comprised of those Arab states which have taken a decisive stand against the invasion. The force could be in Saudi Arabia under Saudi control "without negative implications."

3. Establish a United Nations peacekeeping force stationed in Kuwait, as "an international tripwire to discourage Baghdad from aggression against peninsula states. 'We should give careful thought to having American and Soviet components to that force,' said Murphy."

4. Implement a plan now in development in the Gulf states to revamp their economic assistance to the Arab world. Murphy said preliminary reports are that present thinking in Saudi Arabia is to depoliticize the assistance in favour of designating assistance on the basis of factors such as population.

5. Agree to pre-position a substantial amount of U.S. military equipment in Saudi Arabia to shorten the reaction time required to act in emergencies. "I think there is a political receptivity in Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states to do this," Murphy said.

6. Continue U.S. ground presence in Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states, possibly in concert with existing permanent Arab peace keeping forces. "The probability is low that a permanent, major American deployment is going to be acceptable anywhere on the peninsula," he said.

7. Improve the atmosphere of the Middle East by moving, possibly in concert with the Soviets, to organize regional arms control talks for the Middle East. "Participants in the talks should include all countries with mass destruction weapons or medium range missile capability, the major Arab states, Israel and Iraq."

8. Reinitiate a strong U.S. lead to revive the Arab-Israeli peace process. Progress in arms control talks,



Richard Murphy

Murphy warned, may be difficult. "The language of arms control — such as establishment of a hotline between Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Israel — 'is unknown in the area,' he noted.

Murphy said that pending progress in those talks, "the world community should be more than ready to enforce a continued embargo on Iraq since they are the ones who have done the damage to the world community."

To be decided in a revitalized peace initiative, he said, "is whether there should be a broader framework of participation within the region and whether this should be done in a co-chairmanship role with the Soviets."

Indyk said a long-standing debate in U.S. policy circles on how to deal with Saddam Hussein, was decided yesterday (October 25) with the Administration's announcement of a decision to send 100,000 more troops and heavy armor to Saudi Arabia.

"That decision means that the U.S. has decided to establish an offensive option," Indyk asserted. He said until now, the U.S. force structure in Saudi Arabia has been defensive, but the decision has now been made to add an offensive capability.

"This does not mean that the president has decided to go to war," but rather that he has decided on a strategy of "coercive diplomacy," Indyk said. Implicit in the new strategy is the threat of war — the willingness to go to war — if that threat combines with United Nations sanctions does not induce Iraq to withdraw unilaterally from Kuwait.

Marr, offering a perspective on Iraq, and Saddam Hussein's options, said whether the conflict is resolved by war or by diplomacy, the factors which led Saddam Hussein to invade Kuwait — the reordering of Iraq's economy, and Saddam Hussein's determination to acquire a direct ocean port for both military and trade purposes — will have to be resolved in the end.

"If Iraq was in economic trouble before the boycott, clearly it is in far greater after," Marr said, noting that Iraq has now cancelled all of its debts, thereby destroying its future credit worthiness.

She said because of its hostage taking, Iraq will find it impossible to lure foreign technicians back after the war to help rebuild its economy and infrastructure, and it is going to be far more difficult to get military or other technology from the West.

She said Iraq may dig in while attempting to weaken the alliance, and play for time, because "Saddam believes he can outwit us." Or he may even withdraw unilaterally while negotiating a settlement which leaves him with Bubiya Island as a port, Marr said. "He's very good at thinking up fascinating devices for himself," she noted. "While he does not want war, if it comes, he will make it as costly as possible for the United States," Marr stressed.

Gulf crisis to overshadow Gorbachev-Mitterrand talks

PARIS (R) — The Gulf crisis will overshadow treaty talks between French President Francois Mitterrand and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev this weekend, French officials predicted.

Of the five members of the U.N. Security Council, France and the Soviet Union have taken the most lenient line towards Iraq's August invasion of Kuwait, pushing a diplomatic solution.

Mitterrand's spokesman, Hubert Vedrine, said the two men would discuss the Gulf crisis, along with other subjects, during two sessions of talks Sunday evening and Monday Morning. They would then sign a new Franco-Soviet treaty and hold a joint news conference.

France has sent more than 5,000 soldiers to Saudi Arabia as well as a naval force, but the Soviet Union has refused to send troops to join the international force aligned against Iraq.

Gorbachev defended his decision in Madrid Friday, saying Moscow wanted to explore all chances for a political solution.

"But let no-one take this search for such a solution jointly or bilaterally as a sign of weakness or vacillation in implementing U.N. Security Council resolutions," he told the Spanish parliament.

He flies to Paris from Madrid Sunday.

France, which has more than 300 citizens held in Iraq and Kuwait, is expecting them to be flown home over the weekend after Iraq decided to free them.

Iraqi officials said they were sending the French home because of Mitterrand's constructive attitude to the Gulf crisis, notably remarks made at the U.N. in which he hinted other Middle East problems could be discussed alongside the Gulf crisis.

The French are among more than 2,000 Western and Japanese men still held in Iraq and Kuwait to deter any attack by U.S.-led multinational forces in the Gulf.

Mitterrand is likely to ask Gorbachev if he will be able to sign major conventional weapons arms agreements at a major East-

West summit in Paris next month.

The 34 nations of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) are due to sign the accord slashing non-nuclear arsenals at the Paris meeting.

Washington and Moscow have agreed on the complex accord to cut the number of combat aircraft, tanks and artillery in Europe, but rebellious former Warsaw Pact allies are threatening to scupper it.

The treaty of Franco-Soviet entente and cooperation which Mitterrand and Gorbachev are due to sign is a new kind of agreement.

Vedrine said it would be much more open and flexible than formal government-to-government agreements negotiated with the Kremlin's past hardline communist leaders.

He said the treaty was an ambitious document looking towards the future, as past treaties with Moscow were "no longer operational" in light of Gorbachev's reforms.

Terzi to become adviser to PLO chairman

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) U.N. observer, Zehdi Labib Terzi, is leaving his post after 15 years to become an adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Tunis, Terzi said Friday.

Strongly tipped to succeed him is Nasser Al Kidwa, a nephew of Arafat and a dentist by training, who has been Terzi's deputy for the past four years.

Terzi, a short, bald man with a distinctive goatee, has represented the PLO since it was first granted U.N. observer status in

1975 and has played a major role in advancing its fortunes in the world body.

He said he would take up a new appointment in December as adviser to Arafat on U.N. affairs and on relations with other international bodies.

Terzi was recalled to Tunis Oct. 12, the day the Security Council, including the United States, voted to condemn the action of Israeli police in killing Palestinians in Jerusalem.

The abruptness of the summons sparked rumours the PLO leadership was unhappy with his

performance despite the outcome of the council debate.

But in an interview with Reuters after his return to New York this week, Terzi denied he was in hot water and said he had to brief the PLO Central Council, then in session, on how the United Nations worked.

"There was no hot water but a lot of explanations had to be made about the mechanism of the United Nations and the specific process that we went through," he said.

Kidwa addressed the Security Council meeting at which the

vote was taken and expressed dissatisfaction with the resolution, saying it did not go far enough.

Kidwa, who is in his late 30s, is a member of the Revolutionary Council of Fateh, the main PLO group. He is in charge of the U.N. observer mission until a successor to Terzi is appointed.

Terzi was at the centre of a diplomatic storm in 1979 when Andrew Young, then the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, lost his job for holding secret, unauthorised meetings with the PLO envoy.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Korean
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Football
18:00 News summary
18:10 Local programme
19:50 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:45 Local programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 French film "Coplan"
19:00 News in French
19:15 Classical music
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Home in Rome
21:10 The Secrets of Oil
22:00 News in English
22:20 The Paper Man

PRAYER TIMES

04:36 Fajr
06:44 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:19 Dhuhr
14:26 'Asr
16:55 Maghreb
18:12 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth, Tel. 810740
St. Elizabeths of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzanta Church Tel. 623666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625843
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assuan International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 64992

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy to cloudy, with expected rain in the northern parts of the kingdom. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

USEFUL NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Issam Al Hawamdeh 624330
Dr. Mufeed Tannous 894480
Dr. Mahmoud Aswan 791925
Dr. Mohammed Abu Mafouz 791344
First pharmacy 625230
Perdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 640495
Shumehi pharmacy 637660
IRBID:
Dr. Amin Abu Abdo (—)
Al Shama' pharmacy (985238)

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Traffic Police 894390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 661101
Telephone Repairs 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813013/32
Khaldun Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Al-Bashir Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amn. 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843945
Al-Musayib Hospital 6672719
The Islamic, Abdali 66612731
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Aray, Marfa 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 6224030
Amal Hospital 674135
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)985732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45 Doha (RJ)
09:45 Jeddah (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
10:55 Bahrain (RJ)
14:00 Cairo (RJ)
17:45 Paris, Rome (RJ)
17:45 Madrid (RJ)
18:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:15 Istanbul (RJ)
18:25 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
18:35 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:30 London (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:35 Rome (AZ)
09:25 Larnaca (CY)
11:00 Jeddah (SV)
13:20 Cairo (MS)
13:30 Tripoli (LN)
14:30 Dubai (EK)
15:25 Frankfurt (LH)
20:35 Beirut (ME)
22:45 Athens (OA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

12:00 Cairo (RJ)
12:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:40 London (RJ)
12:45 Istanbul (RJ)
17:15 Dhahran (RJ)
20:30 Doha (RJ)
20:35 Larnaca (RJ)
21:00 Riyadh (RJ)
21:20 Cairo (RJ)
21:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:45 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
22:50 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
23:30 Jeddah, Sanaa (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Sds per kg.

Apple 650 / 520
Banana 500 / 450
Banana (Mukammal) 450 / 400
Beans 300 / 250
Cabbage 120 / 80
Carrot 450 / 350
Cauliflower 170 / 120
Corn 180 / 120
Cucumber (large) 120 / 80
Cucumber (small) 240 / 180
Dates 500 / 400
Eggplant 220 / 180
Figs 500 / 300
Garlic 1000 / 800
Lentils 400 / 300
Lemon 190 / 140
Limes 140 / 100
Mango 100 / 60
Marrow (large) 120 / 80
Marrow (small) 220 / 180
Onion (dry) 210 / 180
Orange 550 / 300
Onion 350 / 450
Pepper (dry) 350 / 250
Pepper (sweet) 140 / 100
Potato 350 / 300
Radish 180 / 120
Sage 550 / 300
Tomatoes 90 / 50

Jordan, Soviet Union to sign trade protocol

AMMAN (J.T.) — The joint Jordanian Soviet Economic Committee resumed meetings in Amman Saturday to discuss bilateral trade and explore ways for expansion and joint ventures.

The committee, which formed sub-committees Wednesday to deal with different topics, reviewed reports by the sub-committees on trade and economic cooperation. It also reviewed progress done by a sub-committee on cooperation in tourism.

The Soviet side to the meeting has already met several ministers and senior officials from the ministries of planning and industry and trade, and scheduled visits to factories and business centres.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the two sides were expected to sign a trade protocol at the end of the meetings in Amman.

The new protocol will replace the one signed by the two sides in Moscow in 1989, which paved the way for bilateral trade and increased exports of Jordanian phosphate to the Soviet Union.

Bomb scare in downtown bank

AMMAN (J.T.) — A bomb-like object found in the main hall of the British Bank of the Middle East, downtown Amman at 1:10 p.m. Saturday caused some panic among the customers, but everyone was relieved when it was found to be a fake bomb.

A spokesman for the Public Security Department (PSD) said that it was notified of the suspected object lying under a seat and covered by a newspaper and immediately dispatched a bomb-disarming squad.

The object turned out to be four dry batteries tied together by a wire and attached to an ordinary clock containing no explosives, according to the spokesman. He said that before the object was removed for examination customers and bank employees were evacuated from the building.

A security official was quoted as telling a Reuters correspondent here that police were investigating the incident, the first reported case of this kind in a year.

Away from the bomb scare in Amman, the PSD announced Saturday that a shepherd, identified only as AMK, came across 10 hand grenades at Al Madani district in the Madaba area south of Amman. The PSD's engineering squad took charge of the situation, removed the grenades and searched the area for other suspected items.

Flour to be sold in the stores

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Supply will soon make arrangements for a number of stores in the Kingdom to sell flour directly to the public to enable people to bake bread at home, especially in the rural areas and villages, according to Ministry of Supply Secretary General Radi Ibrahim.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Ibrahim said that previously stores were not allowed to sell flour which was only used by bakeries, but flour will soon be distributed to stores and the ministry will keep control over the process.

Ibrahim also said that coupons received by the public to purchase rice, sugar and milk at subsidised prices will remain valid until the end of December when new coupons will be issued.

He said that the ministry resorted to issuing new coupons every three or four months to prevent any forgery of the coupons.

He said that members of the public had possibility to obtain the present coupons until the end of November, and these will remain valid until the end of the year.

Thursday, Ibrahim opened the first Jordanian food supplies fair at the fair centre near the University of Jordan. On display are products of 42 Jordanian companies specialising in food processing, home appliances and detergents.

The week-long fair is designed to orient the Jordanian public on the types of locally manufactured products, Ibrahim said in a statement.

At the opening ceremony Ibrahim inspected various items on display and received suggestions and complaints from the participating companies. He said, he would give them due consideration.

Minister denies reports of Iraqi compensation for Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Labour Minister Qassem Obeidat Saturday denied a report in the local press saying that the Iraqi government was planning to offer Jordanians compensation for their losses of property or savings in Kuwait.

The report, which appeared in Al Dustour daily, quoted the minister as saying that the Iraqi government planned to offer compensation and release assets and funds owned by Jordanians who used to work in Kuwait before Iraq's takeover on Aug. 2.

In his statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the minister said that the report was groundless and added that the Ministry of Labour had opened a special office in Amman, at the request of Prime Minister Mudar Badran, for Jordanian expatriates who used to work in Kuwait to register their claims.

Jordanian officials estimated that 280,000 Jordanians have so far returned from the Gulf states, the majority from Kuwait, leaving behind their earnings in banks, their investments in businesses and compensation for the long years spent there. The office is documenting the complaints which will be taken up with the concerned authorities, according to the minister.

According to ministry officials, thousands have responded to the ministry's call to register, providing the required information on special forms now being processed by the Ministry of Labour.

According to Obeidat, Jordanians working in Kuwait are estimated to have lost up to \$8 billion in assets and income.

Obeidat, in an interview with Reuters news agency, said that the estimate was based on a survey of some 3,250 loss claims filed by Jordanians who fled Kuwait.

Obeidat said that he had asked Jordanians coming from Kuwait to detail losses for the record and possible future compensation.

"Based on a selection of random samples from these 3,250 cases and based on the total figure of 80,000 Jordanian migrant workers, we estimate that their loss is between six to eight billion dollars," the labour minister said in the interview.

Obeidat said 160,000 of the 260,000 Jordanians who fled Kuwait had already returned to the emirate to try to resume jobs there and would bring their families back once tension eases.

An average of 500 Jordanians have been returning to Kuwait every day.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday presents awards to children who participated in creativity competition (Petra photo)

Queen honours talented children

AMMAN (J.T.) — Winners of a competition for creative production organised by the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (AHSF) in cooperation with the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) Saturday received awards and meritorious certificates from Her Majesty Queen Noor at a special ceremony regarded as part of Jordan's celebrations of the "Arab Child Day."

Children from 79 primary and preparatory schools and kindergartens in the country took part in the competition submitting a total of 1,270 entries represented in poetry, short stories, paintings, essays and children's songs. Children who took part in the annual event were aged between eight and 15.

According to NHF officials, the competition, the third of its kind so far, is designed to relay children's talents and encourage their creative work and skill.

The competition this year was organised to coincide with the convening of the World Summit for Children held at the end of September in New York. Her Majesty Queen Noor represented Jordan at the meeting and signed documents and declarations regarding children.

Abdul Majid Shoman, chairman of the board of trustees at AHSF welcomed the Queen expressing appreciation of her constant care for children.

NHF Director General Inaam Al Mufu addressed the ceremony underlining the importance of the ongoing efforts to give better care for children at the international level.

The Queen later opened an exhibition displaying the works of children held at the AHSF gallery.

\$1 m saved by rationed energy

By Serene Halasa and Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Electricity saving, which took effect in the Kingdom on Oct. 13, has stirred many different points of view. Like a double-edged sword the rationing has evidently cut down on electricity consumption, at the same time bringing down sales and service sectors, who are obliged to close their businesses at 7 p.m. and, in case of restaurants, at 11 p.m.

Many shopkeepers have voiced satisfaction with the idea behind the electricity rationing, referring to it as "a national duty." Well established restaurant owner said that he was saving JD five an hour on energy, whereas he is estimating his losses to be around JD 500 to 600 a month.

"There is no balance between the amount we are saving and the amount we are losing," the owner, who preferred anonymity, told the Jordan Times. He also added, that the new time limits, have contributed in changing people's attitude in their evening outings.

"People used to go out at 10 o'clock in the evening for dinner, now they find they have no time, causing us to lose 30 per cent of our business," he said. This loss in business revenues has consequently led to laying off three of the restaurant employees. "I think that the unemployment rate in Jordan will increase if this (closing of restaurants at 11:00 p.m.) continues," he added.

"Since August 20, up till mid October we have saved close to 8,000 tonnes in heavy fuel (equivalent to \$1 million) needed to produce electricity," according to Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director General Mohammad Saeed Arafeh. He also added that if the rationing continued at this pace, Jordan would save approximately \$5 to 6 million a year.

In earlier reports expectations of the rationing measures, due to the early closures of businesses were estimated to be around \$500,000 a month. The actual figures, which amount to \$1 million over the last two months of electricity rationing, prove that these measures have a long term positive impact on the saving operation.

"The response from all Jordanian citizens has been tremendous. I am sure that they all believe that this is their national duty," Arafeh said.

But grocers and merchants voiced dissatisfaction with the government's decision and some said the early closure would not only reduce income, which would affect the income tax collection, but would also deprive many citizens of buying their needs in the evening.

"Closing shops at 7 p.m. does not give me time to shop for my family," Farid Abu Judom, owner of Piccadilly supermarket said. He also added that his sales had dropped considerably at the beginning of the rationing phase. "Things have somewhat picked up now since people have adapted to the new time limits," Abu Judom said.

Department stores such as Safeway, have also had their shares of problems. "The bulk of our customers did their shopping between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.; now with the new system the rush hour has dropped to one hour of shopping," a manager at Safeway told the Jordan Times. He went on to add that unlike supermarkets whose customers and sales have adapted to the new times, Safeway still struggles to maintain its customers. "Since Safeway's working hours are similar to those of other supermarkets, people no longer travel extra kilometers to shop at Safeway," the manager said. He also said the store was forced to lay off some of the employees because of slow business.

"We have cut down on electricity consumption over the past two months, which amounts to six per cent of the total fuel consumption in the Kingdom, due to citizens' awareness at homes," Arafeh said. He attributed this success in saving electricity to the high sense of patriotism of the public.

Arafeh gave some advice for saving electricity in the coming winter. "People should do proper maintenance of their boilers, pipes and other heating equipment in homes and cars, making sure that doors and windows are tightly insulated, and switching off non-essential electrical equipment," Arafeh said.

Even though this recent government measures is seemingly debatable amongst the population, experts say that such measures are taken in other countries in the world and have been proven to be successful especially in times of crisis.

The measures have also contributed to the rise of creativity with many shopkeepers who are striving to maintain a good business. A grocery store owner in order to avoid closing his store at 7 p.m. has wittily converted his store into a falafel joint, managing to stay open until 11 p.m. and still abiding by the rules.

RJ reportedly facing problems

By Rabab Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A British firm has refused to transport cargo aboard a Royal Jordanian (RJ) aircraft claiming the Jordanian national carrier is "blacklisted" because of the Gulf crisis, according to a Jordanian contractor.

The contractor said the firm sent him a letter saying that it was "facing difficulties in sending material needed to complete the project (which is carried out by the contractor) because RJ is blacklisted... if you choose a cargo agent from Britain we will be able to send you the bill."

RJ Deputy Director General for Services Aqel Bitlaji dismissed that RJ was included in any "blacklist."

"We have not been informed so far by any of our offices of difficulties in cargo transportation," Bitlaji said. He added that RJ would follow up information about some companies which take such measures on their own.

As a result of the Gulf crisis, he said, some establishments, through their initiative, changed their stand on Jordan without any justification.

Jordan is suffering from the imposition of unannounced sanctions against it by some Arab and foreign countries because of its opposition to sending foreign troops to the Gulf region.

According to a report the government sent to the United Nations last month, Jordan stands to lose \$480 million during the first year of implementing the sanctions imposed on Iraq by the U.N. in transport and tourism, excluding the private sector.

In addition Jordanian passengers travelling through Heathrow airport report strict searches and questioning by British authorities at the airport.

Informed sources said the Jordanian government was following up the issue with the British authorities, who promised to stop such measures, especially after the crew of an RJ aircraft were searched twice, the first before boarding the plane and the second after they took their positions in it. International aviation law considers the aircraft as part of the land of the mother country.

The director of the RJ office at Heathrow who was contacted by telephone Saturday said the British authorities were following these measures and methods but not as strictly as before.

He said the concerned authorities at Heathrow still search Jordanian passengers' luggage and personal papers, photocopy all contracts and official papers they have and ask them personal questions.

In another development Swissair and Alitalia airlines announced that they will stop their flights to and from Amman as of Saturday.

Bitlaji attributed this to the Gulf crisis saying the airlines were suffering financial losses and feared to travel to areas designed as war zones by their countries.

"The Gulf crisis has affected flights by various airlines since the number of passengers to and from Jordan decreased drastically, forcing the airlines to stop their flights for fear of losses," he said.

Veterinarians volunteer service day

KARAK (Petra) — The Jordanian Veterinary Association organised a voluntary service day in five villages in the Karak region in southern Jordan. An association spokesman said the volunteers gave vaccination and treatment to goats and sheep and advice to the stock breeders.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Czechoslovakia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable of good wishes to Czechoslovak President Václav Havel on his country's national day anniversary. In the cable the King wished the president and his people continued progress and prosperity.

King honours outgoing Greek envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has conferred Jordan's Independence Medal of the First Order on Greek Ambassador Hannibal Vellides who is ending his tour of duty in Jordan. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem presented the medal to the outgoing ambassador at a lunch held Saturday in his honour.

Jordan to attend Geneva conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is to take part in an international conference on world climate due to open in Geneva Monday. The conference will be attended by Dr. Ali Abanda, secretary general of the Department of Meteorology. Abanda said that the ten-day meeting will tackle the changing patterns in the world weather and their effects on economic life. At the end of the meetings the delegates are expected to issue a world declaration designed to help give more protection to the environment and stem pollution of the atmosphere.

Arab engineers to hold meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Engineers Federation's executive bureau will open a meeting in Amman Monday to discuss a number of matters including a date and venue for the federation's higher council meeting. Members of the executive bureau represent Lebanon, Iraq, Libya, Egypt and Palestine.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of children's paintings at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (9 a.m. - 5 p.m.).

FILMS

★ Opera film festival (organised jointly by Goethe Institute and the British Council and introduced in Arabic and English by Nuri Rubabeh) at the British Council; on Sunday "Madame Butterfly" will be screened at 8:00 p.m.

Government takes steps to solve truckers' problem

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has cancelled contracts of foreign truck companies transporting phosphate and cement from the mines to the port city of Aqaba or operating inside the Kingdom in order to make way for the 12,000 Jordanian trucks to do the job, according to Ministry of Transport Secretary General Mohammad Smadi.

He said in a statement on Jordan Television that "the cancellation is one of the measures taken to help reduce losses sustained by the land transport sector in the country hard hit and lying idle after losing transport operations to and from Iraq and the Gulf states due to the Gulf crisis."

"The Ministry of Transport is now exploring prospects for Jordanian land transport companies in other Arab and foreign countries, and is holding contacts in this respect at the regional and international levels," said Smadi.

"The land transport sector used to account for 12 per cent of the total gross national product in Jordan, but the Gulf crisis has

now dealt a heavy blow to this sector and consequently to the national economy," Smadi added.

He said that the total losses sustained by the truck companies and private owners of trucks are estimated at JD 300 million. In addition to the trucks, Jordan has 1,650 refrigerated trucks, 1,700 tankers and an unspecified number of trailers which were active, transporting products to and from the Arab states before the Gulf crisis began, Smadi pointed out.

Saudi Arabian territory to other Gulf states.

The U.N. Security Council resolution imposing embargo against Iraq did not take into consideration countries like Jordan which has been going through a choking economic crisis, economists say.

According to ministry officials here, some 55,000 Jordanian workers employed in the land transport sector or at Aqaba Port have lost their jobs. The ministry said that Jordan stands to lose some \$1 billion in lost revenues from land and air transport operations annually.

Red Crescent, Red Cross to send Iraq medicine

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has decided to send to Iraq medicine worth 15,000 Swiss francs to help the needy and those hard hit by the consequence of the sanctions imposed against Iraq for its takeover of Kuwait, according to the league's president, Ahmad Abu Qoura.

Abu Qoura told reporters here Saturday, after his return from a league meeting in Geneva, that the league members had expressed concern over the obstacles placed in the way of international relief operations. The league meeting urged the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to do all it can to allow the humanitarian assistance to reach the people in Iraq.

The league's decision to send medicines to Iraq came at the request of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, said Abu Qoura, who is

\$1m bill found counterfeit

AMMAN (J.T.) — A counterfeit \$1 million bill which was sent to the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) for verification, has been found to be counterfeit money, according to a statement by the CBJ Saturday.

The statement said that the anti-narcotics and forgery division at the Public Security Department (PSD) had confirmed that the bill, which was sent to the bank by a local company, was forged.

A CBJ official contacted by telephone confirmed the report but gave no other detail, although he stressed that no known bills of such denomination were in circulation around the world.

The last time PSD reported the seizure of counterfeit money was in September 1989 when it said that a total of 13,800 counterfeit U.S. dollars were seized from nine persons, including five Jordanians, trying to peddle the currency on the black market.

In August 1989, the PSD said

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Sunday Economic Pulse

Jordan can stand on its feet from within

AFTER the economic crisis of 1988/1989 Jordanians started to think seriously of the future.

Is Jordan a viable entity in the long run? What if Arab and foreign aid dried up at one point in the future? Would Jordan survive depending alone on its own human and natural resources?

Proud Jordanians have no choice in answering such a question except in the affirmative. It is a question of life or death for them. If Jordan cannot stand on its own feet now without external assistance, it should become able to do so in the near future. The challenge for the decision makers and planners is to identify the major sectors that have the potential to help the country to achieve self-sufficiency in fore-

ign exchange, and then to concentrate on the advancement of these sectors to lead the economy to safety and security.

Such sectors that enjoy comparative advantage in the international market should not only be able to generate foreign exchange; they should also be able to grow and their activity should be sustainable in the long term.

To many people's minds, these sectors are mining, agriculture and tourism, all of which have huge possibilities that are not fully exploited yet. Mining is limited only by the ability of the international market to absorb and the right price to offer. The demand on phosphate and potash is guaranteed by the need to pro-

duce more food around the globe. Those two commodities can cover one-third of all our basic needs of foreign exchange.

Agriculture is limited by the scarcity of water for irrigation, but the potential is great and vital. Our crops should not be able to only satisfy 80 per cent of our own food consumption; they should also be capable of earning a lot of foreign exchange through exports to the neighbouring Arab countries and to the huge European market.

Tourism has almost no limitation on growth, as long as we can build the facilities, and secure the right climate, acceptable to the various categories of tourists who come to Jordan for all kinds of reasons, including doing business in the

Kingdom.

The global market of international travel and tourism could not be less than \$200 billion a year by most conservative estimates. It is the most important market, side by side with oil and armaments.

Jordan's share of this huge market is a fraction of one per cent; Jordan has the potential to grab at least one per cent of international tourism, or to quadruple its current share over the coming 10 years. An annual growth of 15 per cent a year is very realistic if we really try hard and do what it takes to become a real tourist centre.

At one time the value added in the tourism sector was no more than 35 per cent, way below the international aver-

age of 60 per cent, because our hotels used to depend heavily on imported labour, and the goods tourists consumed were mainly imported items. Now things have changed drastically. More local inputs are being made available, especially on the manpower side, and the value added is expected to have risen to above 50 per cent of the gross receipts. If we take the multiplier into consideration, we can easily recognise that more tourism receipts cause a chain of income in other sectors such as ground transportation, airline business, restaurants, souvenir shops, communications and government taxes.

In sum, we can conclude that Jordan can become viable and self-sufficient by developing its

mining, agriculture and tourism sectors. These sectors can earn the badly-needed foreign exchange and create new jobs. Capital needed for investment is not beyond our means, and the private sector is willing to fill the gap if the conditions are right.

"The current economic adjustment programme may be able to rid the economy of its problems and dislocations, but only economic growth can secure more jobs to the unemployed, and higher standards of living to the people. The adjustment is only to pave the way for solid growth. Tourism provides one of the major areas for growth and prosperity; it is the greatest promise for financial viability in Jordan."

Pressure won't work

THE U.S. Congress has sent an unmistakable sign of its displeasure with Jordan's position on the Gulf crisis by refusing to make a definite commitment of \$50 million in military aid to the Kingdom for fiscal year 1990-1991. At the same time, the Bush administration appears to have opted for a carrot-and-stick approach with us since the president and Congress have the option to restore the aid in Washington's assistance package for the Kingdom at a later stage during the Oct. 1 to Sept. 30 fiscal year.

The administration requested the economic support and foreign military sales (FMS) assistance package to Jordan in February this year; in line with the request, the House of Representatives "earmarked" \$85.2 million. Senior American diplomats had expressed confidence that the amount was "definitely coming" to Jordan. But the Senate, which debated the request after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, did not earmark any of the amount "because of Jordan's reluctance to break ties with Iraq and support the U.N. sanctions against that country," according to the U.S. Information Agency (USIA), the official information arm of the administration.

It may be true that there could be other interpretations for the move by a conference of members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate Friday to only earmark \$35 million in economic support from a package which included the \$50.2 million in FMS. But, coming at a time when Jordan has been calling for urgent assistance to help it cope with the impact of the Gulf crisis and sanctions on Iraq, the decision cannot but be a reflection of the political sentiment in the U.S. Congress against Jordan's refusal to join the American-led campaign against Iraq and the Kingdom's efforts to bring about a peaceful solution to the Gulf problem — a solution which may fall short of the apparent American aim of eliminating Iraq's military might and toppling the regime of Saddam Hussein.

According to our understanding of the deal, the \$50 million would not have been given to Jordan in cash or in kind. Rather, it would have been extended in the form of writing off Jordan's military debts to the United States.

In any case, and despite repeated statements from senior American officials (including Secretary of State James Baker and Treasury Secretary James Brady) that Jordan was abiding by U.N. sanctions against Iraq as best as it could, there are some in the U.S. who will not give peace a chance or Jordan a break. If these people think with their money they can buy us, soul and conscience and all, they are mistaken. This country, its leadership and people, has taken a principled stand: Not in favour of aggression but for the sake of peace. Putting pressure on us, by withholding much-needed financial and economic assistance and blockading our seaports, will not make Jordan change its course. One day, people will come to realise how wrongly they wronged this country and its stance on the Gulf crisis of today. In the meanwhile, our determination to do what we believe is right grows by the day.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

The current blockade imposed on Jordan and the international delay in giving the country compensation for its losses sustained as a result of the Gulf crisis and the embargo on Iraq, are considered as arbitrary practices on the part of the imperialist powers against the Kingdom and the Jordanian people, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday. This hostile action is being exercised on Jordan because it was brave enough to call for the settlement of the Gulf crisis by peaceful means, motivated by the realisation that war can only bring devastation and can not solve the problem, the paper noted. Jordan's call for a peaceful settlement is fortunately drawing favourable response from the American and European nations where people are demanding an end to the campaign as they do not wish to see their children killed in a battle for protecting war lords and oil interests, the paper continued. But the paper said there is no justification for any nation to take vengeance on Jordan which seeks peace and security for this region, and there indeed no need for beating the drums of war at a time when the peace efforts are continuing. The people of Jordan take pride in the wise policies of the Jordanian leadership which is determined to adhere to pan Arab commitments and national stands, said the paper.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily calls on the government to be brave enough and complain to the Security Council and the international court of justice about American arbitrary measures being exercised against Jordan and its people Tareq Masarweh says that Jordan is facing a blockade and is sustaining huge losses due to the American fleet's interception of cargo vessels heading for Aqaba. The government should be bold enough and raise the question at international circles not only to expose Washington's actions, but also to try to get compensation for its losses, says the writer. He notes that the United States will not come to the aid of Jordan in its present ordeal and not a single penny will be forthcoming as long as Jordan refuses to succumb to the will of the Imperialist forces and join the multi-national force now being deployed against Iraq. Masarweh calls on the Jordanian government to expose the Arab countries which are seizing Aqaba-bound goods and selling them by auction. No one would believe that Jordan will receive any compensation from any source, and therefore, says the writer, there is no alternative but to adhere to the Kingdom's national stand.

It is clear to all now that the United States aims to dominate the Arab oil wealth so as to face United Europe in 1992 and the Japanese economic might in the coming century, said Al Dustour daily newspaper Saturday. The current American military campaign in the Gulf is part of the American strategy to ensure that objective and give impetus to this strategy, the paper added. In its drive to achieve its goal in the Gulf, the United States is being instigated by Israel which fears the Iraqi military might, and which is a strategic ally of the United States, said the paper.

By James LeMoyné

RIYADH — Two and a half months after American forces were sent to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf nations, military commanders and political officials are finding it difficult to assure achievable goals in an ambiguous conflict whose outcome they cannot easily control.

In interviews over the last three weeks, American, Saudi and European military and political officials have pointed to the growing realization that if war comes, its human, economic, and political costs are likely to be high.

They say there is little prospect of winning a neat "victory" in such a conflict and that its consequences for the region and for the United States could prove severe.

"We can retake Kuwait and hit the Iraqi army hard," an American official said. "But what happens after that is hard to say."

At present, American and other forces are engaged in a steady military buildup designed to accompany diplomatic pressure on Iraq.

Barring unexpected developments, American officials say they do not foresee a war beginning for at least two months. They add that the United States and other countries are likely to seek further United Nations backing before initiating any military attack.

American forces are not yet fully deployed in the desert here, and a British armored brigade is just arriving. In the air, American fighters are testing Iraqi defenses by flying at the border and recording the signals of Iraqi radar, but pilots say the Iraqis often foil the exercise by refusing to turn on their electronic equipment.

In the midst of such preparations, no official can say with assurance when war may begin, nor how, and when it might end.

American military planners and political analysts here run countless scenarios — all of them possible, none of them certain.

Officials say prediction is difficult because of shifting alliances and sudden developments in a Middle Eastern region that is inherently unstable. American planners say they have yet to decide if their goal is simply to liberate Kuwait, or to destroy the Iraqi military, Iraqi weapons factories, and the Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein, as well, perhaps by sending a multi-national force to occupy Iraq.

There is little doubt that the

In Gulf crisis there is no sure conclusion

forces here can retake Kuwait and destroy much of Iraq's army and air force. But there are grave doubts about the costs of occupying Iraq and the future of a defeated Iraq.

an American diplomat said. "We have to think about Iraqi and Arab reaction to a humiliating defeat at the hands of the United States."

American planners admit

'Saudi and American officials say war with Iraq may deepen the identity crisis Arab societies have been suffering for decades as they confront a period of threatening change that many see as spurred by Western societies they both admire and fear.'

Saudi and American officials say war with Iraq may deepen the identity crisis Arab societies have been suffering for decades as they confront a period of threatening change that many see as spurred by Western societies they both admire and fear.

"The way we win will be as important as winning itself,"

they cannot predict the reaction of the Iraqi people to an outside attack, especially the reaction of the country's Shiite Muslim majority.

Several diplomats said the ideal scenario would be to force an Iraqi withdrawal that brings the downfall of Mr. Hussein. But they admit that there is no assurance of this

and no certainty that a more mainstream leader would replace him.

Uncertainty is heightened by the possibility that Iran or Syria might invade Iraq to seize disputed territories, or that Iraq's long-abused Kurdish people will rise up and demand a state of their own.

There is also a realization that American and civilian casualties may well be high in a war of rockets, heavy armor, poison gas and possibly biological weapons. The Western hostages held in Iraq may die. Leaking poison from bombed Iraqi chemical plants may kill civilians.

American officials have sought as much Arab participation as possible in the military force that may attack Iraq. But so far, Arab nations have sent minimal troops, increasing the political exposure of American, British and French forces.

There appears to be a possibility that American forces could find themselves used by Arab nations in a regional feud that, but for the importance of oil, appears distant from traditional American concerns.

This is a region dominated by rigid military dictatorships and Arab monarchies.

In the event of war, American planners expect a new wave of terrorist strikes against American and European targets. They say they fear American embassies could also be attacked in several Arab countries.

Several diplomats said they feared further polarization between Israel and the occupied Palestinian population it controls. If Iraq were to attack Israel, American officials say, the conflict could easily widen to include other Arab countries.

It is a scenario that causes planners here particular concern. Faced with Arab demands and the need to assure future oil supplies, American and international pressure may grow on the Israeli government to negotiate autonomy for the Palestinians.

Saudi, Kuwaiti and American officials say war with Iraq will redefine attitudes toward the defense of oil reserves and the Gulf countries that hold most of them.

It appears likely that a multinational force will remain, backed by a security pact aimed at imposing a degree of stability in a long-volatile region where Iraq, Iran and Saudi Arabia will continue to compete for influence. — International Herald Tribune

German unity turns into nightmare for mapmakers

By Kevin Liffey
Reuters

BERNE — The vanishing border between the Germans has brought nothing but trouble for the mapmakers.

A year ago it was a firm green stripe with dots and dashes. By mid-1990 it was just dots and dashes. From Oct. 14 the stripe returned — but thinner and much less noticeable.

"The situation changed so fast that we couldn't keep up any more," said Helmut Laube, cartographer at the Swiss head office of one of Europe's largest map publishers, Kuemmerly und Frey.

One road atlas produced for the flood of travellers between the Germans shortly after their common border opened last November had to be revised three times when it was already on the verge of publication.

"We suddenly heard there were 20 new frontier crossings. Then there were 40. When we'd put them all in we got the news the whole border was open and we had to scrape all the crossings out again," Laube said.

So he put Germany back on the drawing board, overlaid it with tracing paper showing the latest amendments and got to work with coloured pens and a scalpel.

He had already reconstructed long-disused roads, rebuilt bridges and summoned into existence 3,000 villages which until then had simply not been on the map.

"Suddenly west Germans all wanted to visit the little villages their families originated from," he said.

The firm puts the cost of German unity, scale 1:500,000, at around 600 hours of cartographers' time. But thousands of hours if you count the 50 or so maps of adjoining regions and European and world maps that must all be changed.

Until East Germany opened up, information was hard to get as official maps were unobtainable and anyway contained deliberate inaccuracies lest they fall

into enemy hands.

Not that the political problems are over. The united Germany still has no official name.

Kuemmerly und Frey would rather not do the politicians' job for them but the firm does not have as much time as they do to reshape the country, so it has extended the lettering "Federal Republic of Germany" right into former East German territory.

No easy job because Laube has to move aside up to three villages to make way for each capital letter. Not everyone is pleased. One radical nationalist map-buyer, evoking Hitler's pre-war reich, wrote to say it was shameful that what he thought of as Eastern Germany should be labelled Poland.

The mapmaker has little choice but to improvise. When border controls were scrapped but east and west remained separate countries, the fastest way to show this was to remove the thick green stripe that emphasised the border.

Now that unification is complete, the border appears as a thinner stripe and broken line marking the boundaries of the federal states Eastern Germany acquired this month.

The speed of events is still stretching Kuemmerly's information gathering. Usually it relies on newspaper cuttings and calls to planning offices.

Now Laube tries to keep one step ahead of official decisions, relying on the radio and a bit of inspired guesswork for the latest on, say, the race between Dresden and Leipzig to be capital of the new federal state of Saxony.

This can be a bit of a strain. "After all, we aren't a daily newspaper," he said.

But the overwhelming demand for information on the new Germany brings acute pressure to get maps on the market.

Kuemmerly used to update its maps of East Germany only every two years for a print-run of 10,000. This year it has updated its new map twice and sold 300,000 road atlases.

Syrian leadership plays the right cards in Gulf crisis

By Martin Woollacott

THE GULF crisis caught Syria in the middle of a wary retreat from untenable positions. The Syria of the mid-eighties was at odds with the United States after contesting American purposes in Lebanon; at odds with Europe after the Paris bombings and the El Al bomb attempt; at odds with most of the Arab world because of its alliance with revolutionary Iran; and at odds with its superpower patron, the USSR, balking at the costs and risks of Syria's policy of trying to match Israeli military strength.

President Hafez Al Assad changed course, improving relations with the US by helping its hostage releases, strengthening links with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, and restoring relations with Egypt. But still Syria was in a kind of limbo. In Western demonology, she remained a terrorist state, and Lockerbie seemed to underline that. In the meantime the country's principal international connection, that with the eastern bloc, was disintegrating. It was not just that the Soviet Union had lost interest in the idea of Syrian "strategic parity" with Israel; it was also beginning to wonder about the utility of any kind of special relationship with Syria.

Thus the invasion of Kuwait came along at a propitious moment. It enabled Syria to rehabilitate itself in the eyes of the West, with the partial exception of Britain. And it enabled her to join as a founder member what may turn out to be the decisive economic grouping in the Middle East, based on a more generous Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Already, it has strengthened Syria's hand in the Lebanon. "We were the black sheep of the world. Now we are suddenly respectable again," a

Damascus lawyer observed sourly. "See how the Italians rolled out the red carpet for our foreign minister the other day? It would have been unthinkable a few months ago."

Syria has made such gains by doing the absolute minimum. It is widely remarked in Damascus that the armoured division that was to have followed Syria's first small contingent in Saudi Arabia is conspicuous by its absence. It is noted, too, that Syria justifies the presence of its troops in the Gulf by saying they are there to prevent war, not to wage it. Again, while Syria is credited with drawing Iran more firmly into the anti-Saddam camp, it is clear that both countries can be counted on only until such time as war breaks out.

tic to Iraq. There is no acceptance of Syria and the US working together.

Even in the ruling Ba'ath party, accused by critics of being "brain dead", there has been tangible discontent, and the same must be true of the army. Assad has shown his appreciation of the problem by organising an unusually comprehensive series of party and army policy briefings.

The temporary solution to these contradictions seems to be, as a Western diplomat put it: "If war comes, all bets are off." Syrian troops would not fight. More than that, Syria would reserve the right to change its policy, particularly if Israel became involved in the war. "I don't think the army would accept a real war," one

'President Assad may have acted astutely, and he may have shrewdly limited his commitments so far, but what he has done is deeply unpopular with his own people. A member of the Iraqi opposition living in Damascus — a man who would wish it to be otherwise — said: "The majority of ordinary Syrians are sympathetic to Iraq. There is no acceptance of Syria and the U.S. working together.'

President Assad may have acted astutely, and he may have shrewdly limited his commitments so far, but what he has done is deeply unpopular with his own people. A member of the Iraqi opposition living in Damascus — a man who would wish it to be otherwise — said: "The majority of ordinary Syrians are sympathetic to Iraq. There is no acceptance of Syria and the U.S. working together."

Syrian said. "At that moment, unless the policy changed, a coup would be a possibility."

The truth is, of course, that Syria knows no better than the other actors in this drama where it is going or what kind of war it may produce. An opponent of the regime in Damascus says: "This government is enfeebled, economical-

ly weak and without popular support, and the crisis is putting it under new and dangerous pressures. Those pressures are the same across the region. When every objective consideration indicates an alignment with the West, popular feeling points in exactly the opposite direction."

Thus the Gulf crisis has allowed Assad to complete a necessary realignment with the West and the moderate Arab states, which was under way anyway. The Soviet connection can no longer provide an anchor for any Middle Eastern state. Economic advantage suggests closer relations with the new Europe, while hopes for a solution to the Palestinian conflict rest more than ever on the possibility that the United States may finally put real pressure on Israel. Within the region the crisis may revolutionise the attitude of the Gulf states, the most pro-Western of all, which could lead, some optimists believe, to a real Arab common market generously primed with Gulf money.

But against these tendencies flows the powerful current of popular feeling, including a substantial fundamentalist eddy. "The mosques, the mosques," cried one of Assad's critics, "that's where you see what is happening to the people. They are full to bursting. Full of the young."

Others hope that an essentially secular Syrian society is merely donning religious clothing to express its opposition to an unpopular regime. As Syria, once a foremost "terror state," pursues its efforts to help in the release of British and American hostages while holding out its hands for Western and Japanese aid on an unprecedented scale, its future looks neither steady nor healthy, unless the deep contradictions between policy and popular sentiments can be resolved.

Gulf stand-off 'will crush poor nations'

By Leonard Doyle

UNITED Nations economists are warning that a protracted military stand-off in the Gulf coupled with economic sanctions against Iraq will devastate the world's poorest economies while dealing a savage blow to the already weak economies of East Europe. Assuming oil prices return to \$40 a barrel, the burden of debt which many countries face would be augmented by the price of paying twice as much for energy.

As well as the increased cost of oil, the Gulf crisis is taking its toll in the form of higher inflation and loss of confidence in a world economy that was already slowing down. The sudden redistribution of income and wealth caused by higher oil prices is throwing the world economy into turmoil.

There will be beneficiaries. Oil exporting countries in the developed, communist and developing world stand to make windfall profits of nearly \$200 billion (\$101.5 billion) a year from the crisis on the basis of a \$40 barrel, according to U.N. economists. They include the U.K., Norway and Canada which would earn \$6.2 billion, \$10.4 billion and \$2.7 billion respectively. The Soviet Union will earn an additional \$24.3 billion for its exports while OPEC and non-OPEC developing countries, including Mexico and Venezuela, will reap an additional \$154 billion a year.

There have been some efforts to compensate those on the other side of the equation. East Europe is expected to lose \$12 billion in 1990 and 1991 through higher oil prices alone, but George Bush said last week he would press the World Bank to arrange loans worth \$5 billion to help these countries. Moscow's former client states in East Europe, now paying full market price for their oil, are being squeezed to the point where the U.N. predicts a sharp economic decline.

Poland, Czechoslovakia and Romania have already appealed to the U.N. Security Council for emergency aid to offset the

effects of the crisis. Prague estimates the total direct loss to its economy from the crisis is more than \$1.1 billion. Warsaw says its losses are around \$2.4 billion and Romania calculates its losses at more than \$1 billion.

Washington also hopes to raise \$22 billion from the world's richest countries, about half of which has been earmarked for the front-line states — principally Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey.

So far commitments have been received from Saudi Arabia for \$8 billion (expected to make \$69 billion from the conflict on the basis of a \$40 barrel), from Kuwait for \$4 billion, \$4 billion from Japan, (expected to pay another \$29 billion in oil bills at \$40 a barrel), and \$2 billion from the European Community (which will be paying an extra \$51 billion in oil costs). Germany is providing \$2 billion of the EC aid, despite the added burden of unification and an estimated extra \$15 billion in the cost of its oil. The IMF is lending an extra \$2 billion.

But the world's poorest countries, which U.N. economists predict will pay an extra \$32 billion in higher oil prices in 1991, are so far being virtually ignored, although the IMF has made noises about easing lending requirements. It seems political expediency, rather than absolute economic need, will determine who pays and who gains from the conflict.

Without additional money, consumption of oil in sub-Saharan Africa is expected to fall by 30 per cent. This will have a devastating impact on the region's productive output which is 70 per cent dependent on oil. Years of austerity have cut import bills to the bone in these countries, and the U.N. predicts a fall in oil imports will lead to the closure of power stations, factories and mines, while crippling transportation. This will translate into slower growth and a further slide in living standards.

The military stand-off and the

U.N. sanctions have wiped out entire export markets. For some countries such as India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, there is the extra cost of tens of millions of dollars in lost remittances from those who have fled Iraq and Kuwait.

The impact of the crisis on Africa is described as "devastating" by U.N. officials and for some drought-afflicted countries like Ethiopia and Sudan it will hamper efforts to fight famine.

U.N. officials estimate that with oil prices averaging \$30 a barrel in 1991 — on optimistic estimate under most scenarios — African importers will face a doubling of their 1989 costs to \$4 billion. The extra oil bill alone would eat up some 10 per cent of export earnings in recent years. IMF officials estimate that the costs to sub-Saharan oil importers could amount to \$2 billion by the end of 1991, even if oil prices have fallen back to \$21 a barrel by then.

According to the respected U.N. bulletin Africa Recovery, the deterioration on the continent may exceed the worst of what was experienced in the traumatic decade of the 1980s.

Beyond the impact of higher oil bills, African primary commodity exporters have to contend with a more hostile world economic climate. U.N. and IMF studies suggest that a prolonged period of high oil prices will slow output in the industrialised world by up to 0.75 per cent. With output in developed countries already falling from 3.4 per cent in 1989 to 2.4 per cent in 1990-91, demand for Third World imports is expected to be well down. As a result African countries will face lower export earnings and rising import bills.

Many countries seriously affected by the crisis and the U.N. sanctions have made appeals for emergency help under Article 50 of the United Nations Charter, but the U.N. has yet to take steps to alleviate their plight. — The Independent.

'I'm not pacifist,' says one William Brown. 'But I'm trying to avert another Vietnam'

An American's personal crusade against war in the Gulf

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — William Brown is a 39-year-old American who makes a living by driving a truck between California and New York. He is married with three children. He used to lead the normal life of an average "fun-loving" American with all that goes with it. But not anymore. The Gulf crisis has changed his life.

Brown, a former Marine Corps sergeant who fought in Vietnam, is now in Jordan trying to do something about what he believes in.

He thinks that war is imminent in the Gulf and he is here to try to prevent it. He says that regardless of whatever is being said, the American troops deployed in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the region will launch an assault on Iraq any time.

"As every hour passes, I am getting more and more frightened," he says. "There is no doubt in my mind that each passing day is bringing the war nearer to the region."

"I have 58,000 reasons to come here," he adds referring to the 58,000 acknowledged deaths of American servicemen in Vietnam. "I hope someone listens to me before things get out of hand in the Gulf."

Brown believes that the only way to dissuade the administration of President George Bush from attacking Iraq is through mobilising American public opinion. And such a mobilisation cannot be launched in the United States without an impact preceding it because, Brown says, "I am a common man; in fact a nobody, and nobody will listen to me if I go to a street corner and shout at the top of my voice."

"It took us four-and-a-half-years before enough public opinion was mobilised against our involvement in Vietnam," he recalls. "Our government was forced to withdraw from

Vietnam after a senseless war. And now Washington says 58,000 American soldiers died for their country in Vietnam. I say that they died for nothing, except for the politicians..."

"Mind you, I am not in the Middle East now for humanitarian reasons," he says. "I am not a pacifist either. I am someone who is willing to fight for what he believes in. In this case, I believe that what our government is doing in the Middle East is not right. I can sense another Vietnam coming up and I am trying to avert that."

According to Brown, the American media are not carrying any objective presentation of the realities that face the Americans in the Gulf. "Every piece of news item and every clip of film twists facts and turns things around whenever (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein says something positive about peace and Arab rights. It sounds as if it is something coming out of someone like Hitler."

After listening to continuous news broadcasts on the Gulf crisis ever since the Iraqis took over Kuwait on Aug. 2, Brown is convinced that "what the media are giving the Americans is exactly what Bush wants them to give."

Radio broadcasts, perhaps the only constant in Iraq ever since the life of a truck driver, have enabled Brown to listen extensively to news from the hundreds of local and national radio networks around the country. "I was not at all convinced that our government had a real cause in the Gulf from day one — Aug. 2," says Brown. "As days went by, I realised no-one was doing anything about it. And that's why I decided to try my hand."

"I am not defending what Saddam Hussein did nor am I justifying anything. I believe that the Americans have a right to know the truth — the truth that our government is pushing for war for no reason



William Brown

except the quest for domination of the largest oil reserves in the world. Thousands of Americans are going to be killed in this war," adds the tall, well-built American.

How does Brown, a self-described "common man from the streets of America," hope to achieve anything in the labyrinth of the complex Gulf and Middle East equation where leading statesmen and diplomats have made little headway?

"What I need is a boost, which will set the stage for a concerted public awareness campaign in the United States," says Brown, who comes from Sioux Falls in South Dakota. "I am in this neither for money nor for fame," he adds. "For me, it is unacceptable that thousands of American lives are going to be sacrificed in a war which is not ours."

"Bush hasn't sent 200,000 American soldiers to the Saudi desert just to sit there and defend Saudi Arabia," he asserts. "One has to look carefully at the well-arranged scenarios that followed the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait. Bush, who has had long experience in the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) and has the best military advisers and strategists at his disposal, knows exactly what he is doing; it will be a grave mistake to assume that Bush does not know what could happen in the event of a shooting war erupting in the region. He knows about each and every aspect and element of the catastrophic situation,

and he still has not turned back. He will not allow anything to stand in his way."

"King Hussein has been a friend of the United States for many long years," Brown points out. "Now, the situation has changed. Why? Because the King is telling the truth, which the administration does not want to hear."

Brown, who was discharged on medical grounds from the Marine Corps — "breathing problems, perhaps effects of Agent Orange" — is determined to see his mission through. "People may dismiss me simply as one of those 'crazy Americans' who come here with a message of peace and negotiations. What I am saying is that war is inevitable and the only way to avoid it is through letting the American people take the lead."

Brown has sent several letters to the Iraqi president through the Iraqi embassy in Amman and to His Majesty King Hussein. While there has not been any Iraqi response, the Royal Palace in Amman has replied to him that while the King appreciates what Brown is trying to accomplish he regrets that he could not see the former soldier because of his busy schedule.

"I think my repeated requests for a visa to Iraq and meeting with Saddam Hussein as well as my pleas to King Hussein for help are not reaching the right places," Brown says. "And that is the only reason I broke my silence and decided to speak to the press."

Brown, who arrived in Amman Sept. 29 and spoke to the Jordan Times last week after being disappointed by what he described as lack of understanding of his mission. "I am not a politician nor a diplomat. In fact, I do not know the basic norms of how to approach a head of state. But I do know one thing, and that is that I do not want to see American blood shed in a conflict which is not in the interests of the American pub-

lic." "I am a common man," he emphasises. "But I am an American man from the street who has taken an individual initiative with the aim of averting another Vietnam in the Middle East for the Americans. I will be more than glad to go back to my truck and resume my hauls between California and New York if that purpose — of a U.S. withdrawal from the region — is served."

Brown, who says he raised enough money to travel to the Middle East by putting off payments of bills at home, is worried that "something might happen" in the days to the Nov. 6-7 expiry of the 90-day deadline of provisions in the War Powers Act, which stipulates that the president has to secure congressional approval for continued deployment of American forces abroad after this period. "I am afraid time is running out," says Brown. "After all, unless someone listens to me my mission is doomed to failure. But I am determined to knock on every door."

"When Jesse Jackson or Kurt Waldheim flies into Baghdad to meet Saddam Hussein they get all the publicity and media limelight simply because they make headlines around the world," he says. "But what practical purpose do they serve in terms of averting a war in the region?"

"The only people who can stop war are the Americans, and there are several ways of making them do it and I am convinced that what I have in mind will serve this purpose," he asserts. He declined to specify what exactly he had in mind. "I'll leave it to the decision-makers to be the judges of that," he said.

Apparently a release of American nationals held in Iraq as deterrent against attack is one of the main themes that Brown has in mind for an "event with an impact."

Gorbachev: Iraq could be softening stand

(Continued from page 1)

Primakov told the Iraqi News Agency upon his arrival in Baghdad that his visit was part of "continuing consultations with the Iraqi leadership on Gulf developments," and stressed that Moscow "wants to see a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis."

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, who met Primakov at the airport, said a peaceful settlement to the crisis was still possible.

"I'm always optimistic about the future," Aziz said when asked if war could still be avoided. But he refused to answer follow-up questions.

Primakov visited Washington, Paris, London, Rome, Cairo and Damascus after his Oct. 6 talks in Baghdad.

In a speech to the Spanish parliament on Friday, Gorbachev said Moscow's refusal so far to

send troops to the Gulf should not be construed as weakness or hesitation. Moscow has said it could contribute to a multinational force only if it were organised under U.N. auspices.

On the question of economic aid for Moscow, Gorbachev said he was concerned that some Western countries were not convinced that half was needed to rectify the Soviet economy.

Bush in flurry of contacts

(Continued from page 1)

of military conflict with Iraq and look for a way out.

U.S. officials have been concerned about recent peace feelers from Baghdad and the stepped-up release of Western nationals, which they see as a move to split the alliance.

Bush has repeatedly ruled out any compromise, saying Iraq must comply with the U.N. resolutions before Baghdad's territorial and oil disputes with Kuwait are discussed.

U.S. intelligence chief William Webster, speaking to a private foreign policy group Thursday, also dampened speculation a di-

plomatic solution might be near. At the State Department, spokesman Richard Boucher told reporters Friday:

"The test of (Iraq's) willingness to find a peaceful solution is whether or not (it) is willing to implement the U.N. resolutions fully and so far we've seen no indication from (Iraq) that (it) is willing to do that."

There has also been speculation Bush would visit Saudi Arabia to meet U.S. troops there next month. While not getting into specifics, Fitzwater told reporters earlier: "The president said he wants to go. I expect we will."

Qadhafi

(Continued from page 1)

prepare Arabs to defend themselves.

"We will give you the mission of inciting youth of the Arab Nation against these enemies. We do not consider this an attack on these enemies but self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter," Qadhafi said.

His remarks were carried by the Libyan media Saturday.

"We are against coups and assassinations and armed operations and secret work. You must go out publicly to achieve Arab unity, starting from Jan. 1, as Arab unity must be achieved with European unity," he said in reference to European Community plans for greater unity by 1992.

Gulf threat earning billions for Britain

From Leonard Doyle

THREE of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council — Britain, the Soviet Union and China — are earning billions of dollars from higher oil prices brought on by the threat of war and UN sanctions against Iraq, according to an internal United Nations study obtained by The Independent.

The UN report also highlights enormous windfall profits totalling \$154bn (£78bn) a year which Opec and other oil-producing developing nations would make from the military stand-off, given an oil price of \$40 a barrel. Norway would earn an extra \$10.4bn from oil exports and Canada \$2.7bn, the reports says. (On

Friday, oil was at \$33.79 a barrel, down from the record high of \$41.15 set the previous week).

One of the conclusions being drawn from the study is that Britain, the Soviet Union, China may have an economic interest in maintaining the present level of conflict with Baghdad, providing it does not escalate into war. The economic gains to Britain, estimated at \$6.2 bn a year, may explain the hawkish views expressed by some government officials since the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait by Iraq.

The gains to Moscow — a staggering \$24.3 bn — may partly explain, too, why it so readily supported the sanctions resolutions against its old customer. China will gain an addi-

tional \$2 bn a year from higher priced oil exports, according to the UN's Department of International and Social Affairs.

"One of the conclusions being drawn from the study is that Britain, the Soviet Union, China may have an economic interest in maintaining the present level of conflict with Baghdad, providing it does not escalate into war"

The US, which stands to lose \$46.5 bn a year at the \$40-a-barrel price, has meanwhile been shying away from talk of war and has taken up a number of diplomatic initiatives, including UN resolutions, designed to put pressure on Iraq and to refocus international

attention on the campaign against President Saddam Hussein, while putting off any decision on a military offensive.

A stark example of this trend was Washington's decision to tone down Margaret Thatcher's call for a UN resolution charging Iraq with war crimes and demanding reparations. US diplomats feared that such a resolution would cut off any room for manoeuvre or negotiation by sending a signal to the Iraqi leadership that they would inevitably have to face tribunals modelled on the Nuremberg trials of Nazi war criminals.

Some diplomats suggest that the sudden redistribution of income and wealth, coming on top of a recession brought on by the crisis, has given the US

the incentive to seek a rapidly negotiated settlement with Iraq.

The leak of the UN's estimates of the winners and losers in the conflict to date is also expected to lead to calls from US politicians for more burden-sharing by the countries gaining from the higher world oil prices.

US diplomats at the UN are already discreetly floating ideas for a face-saving settlement of the conflict, involving a total Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, with UN peacekeeping forces being installed on the disputed islands of Bubiyan and Warbah and on the Rumailah oil field, pending international arbitration. — The Independent.

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Le docteur Nayef Goussous

Milliardaire par delà les âges

Lorsqu'il ne pose pas du plomb sur les dents de ses patients, le Dr Nayef Goussous caresse de l'or, de l'argent, du bronze et des pierres précieuses. Dentiste à Amman, M. Goussous est aussi numismate. En dix ans, il s'est constitué une des plus belles collections existant au monde de pièces de monnaie ayant circulé dans le croissant fertile (Syrie, Liban, Palestine, Jordanie) depuis 2.000 ans. Certaines des pièces qu'il possède ne sont connues qu'à deux ou trois exemplaires dans le monde et M. Goussous possède parfois le plus intact de ces exemplaires. Il ne compte plus aujourd'hui le nombre de candidats au doctorat venus chez lui de pays lointains pour observer ses pièces et écouter l'histoire et les explications qu'il dispense de mémoire à l'évocation de chacune d'entre elles. Le Dr Goussous jongle avec les dates, les siècles, les invasions et les régimes qu'a connus cette région depuis 2.000 ans avec une facilité et une souplesse qui déconcertent le profane.

Il faut dire que ce personnage, car c'en est un à coup sûr, vit depuis dix ans une passion quasi amoureuse pour ces petits disques de métal qui, à travers les siècles, délivrent un message culturel, religieux, social, politique, économique et artistique unique sur l'époque où il a été frappé, fondu ou gravé.

« Cette passion, raconte-t-il,

est née d'un cadeau que mon père avait offert à mon oncle quand j'étais enfant: un sceau minuscule en pierre de jaspe, acheté chez un marchand d'antiquités. Alors que les adultes le regardaient dans son ensemble et le trouvaient joli, je me suis mis à le regarder de plus près, sous une loupe et à le retourner dans tous les sens. Il représentait un aigle aux ailes ouvertes avec une tête d'homme. Je me suis aperçu qu'en faisant pivoter lentement le sceau sur lui-même, des rides apparaissaient sur le visage de l'homme, qui vieillissait progressivement grâce à des traits invisibles de face mais qui apparaissaient au fur et à mesure que l'axe du regard se rapprochait de la tranche du sceau. Je m'aperçus aussi qu'en plaçant le sceau la tête en bas, la tête de l'homme devenait un rocher et que les serres de l'aigle se transformaient en un bec ouvert. »

Puissante émotion que celle de se sentir tout à coup en communication avec l'auteur de cet objet d'art par delà quelques centaines de siècles d'incompréhension.

Dès lors, le Dr Goussous n'a pas consacré une minute de son temps libre à autre chose qu'à l'acquisition de sceaux et de pièces anciennes et à leur étude en détail pour en découvrir le message, caché par l'artiste, estompé par l'usure du temps ou rendu difficilement compréhensible

par l'évolution des cultures et des langues. Certaines ont résisté et ont gardé leur mystère: message rédigé dans un alphabet inconnu, symbole déconnecté de sa signification, dessin partiellement gommé par le temps dont on ne parvient pas à reconstituer l'ensemble. Mais la plupart ont cédé à un examen minutieux: sous la loupe, après agrandissement photographique, des noms qui nous sont familiers apparaissent presque distinctement: «Pétra»; «Jerash»; «Philadelphia» (l'ancien nom d'Amman); «Néapolis» (Naples)... Les 18 villes qui furent autrefois des provinces arabes.

Le Dr Goussous nous montre comment des pièces chrétiennes représentant un calvaire (un croix en haut de quelques marches) ont été islamisées après Mahomet par l'ajout de sortes de parenthèses aux branches de la croix qui transforment le calvaire en une sorte de clé, représentant l'ouverture des portes de la foi.

Un sceau ovale d'un centimètre et demi de haut sur un centimètre de large, dont on voit à l'œil nu qu'il représente un jeune soldat, se révèle, après agrandissement photographique dissimuler quatre autres figures: deux hommes à barbe cachés dans son casque et deux visages imberbes dans son épaule et sa poitrine. (Voir photo).

Il est stupéfiant de voir aussi comme la rectitude des traits sur des gravures aussi minuscules résiste à un grossissement par cinq ou par dix, sans que le moindre défaut n'apparaisse.

« Chaque pièce est une histoire », aime à dire Nayef Goussous. Et, en effet, chaque fois qu'il en prend une et nous en explique les détails, on a le sentiment de plonger avec lui dans un autre univers en remontant le temps. Le plaisir qu'on éprouve à tenir une épaisse pièce de bronze, dont le poids au creux de la main donne une impression de richesse et de puissance, se double de celui de savoir qu'il y a bien longtemps d'autres hommes ont eu le même

plaisir avec le même objet.

La collection du dentiste numismate comporte environ 4.000 pièces, soigneusement rangées par époques dans des tiroirs appropriés. Pour se les procurer, il fait régulièrement le tour de la dizaine de marchands existant à Amman, qui s'approvisionnent eux-mêmes chez les différents marchands du territoire jordanien et du croissant fertile, auxquels les Bédouins vendent les trouvailles qu'ils font en creusant aux endroits supposés avoir abrité des habitations antiques. « Une collection en appelle une autre, explique le Dr Goussous en ouvrant un tiroir rempli de perles et de morceaux de silex taillés. Lorsqu'un de mes fournisseurs bédouins n'a que des perles à m'offrir le jour où je passe le voir, il me faut bien les lui acheter, sans quoi il refusera, la fois suivante, de me vendre une pièce qui m'intéresse. »

Le Dr Goussous ne peut même pas vendre les pièces de monnaie qu'il a en double, sous peine de perdre ses marchands. « Lorsque je vois une pièce que j'ai déjà mais en bien meilleur état je ne peux pas ne pas l'acheter, explique-t-il. Mais je ne peux pas me débarrasser de l'autre en la vendant, car aussitôt les marchands m'accuseraient de profiter d'eux et de faire du bénéfice sur leur dos en jouant les revendeurs. »

Son atout face aux marchands, par rapport aux autres jordanien qui constituent leurs propres collections, c'est qu'il est indépendant et n'a pas de multiples autorisations administratives à demander pour agir: ce qu'il voit et qu'il n'a pas, il l'achète immédiatement, au meilleur prix, sans attendre qu'un au-



tre acheteur se présente. Connu maintenant pour son honnêteté et sa compétence, il est appelé le premier par la plupart des marchands lorsqu'ils trouvent une pièce rare afin qu'il leur dise sa valeur et l'achète si elle manque à sa collection.

Tout irait pour le mieux dans le meilleur des mondes si, depuis quelques temps, les pièces ne se faisaient pas curieusement plus rares. Il semblerait que l'assouplissement du régime des frontières entre la Jordanie et la Cisjordanie il y a cinq ans ait donné naissance à un trafic consistant pour les Bédouins à vendre à prix élevé leurs pièces aux Américains par l'intermédiaire des Israéliens. Ainsi, Nayef Goussous se voit contraint parfois, pour compléter sa collection, d'acheter au prix fort des pièces venues d'ici, aux Etats-Unis ou à Londres.

Regrettant ces spéculations, il tente de mettre de l'ordre dans ses pièces, ses perles, ses photographies et les 220 livres qu'il aide à comprendre le sens des gravures... mais rien à faire: la maison est devenue trop petite.

Depuis dix ans qu'il convertit son argent en monnaies n'ayant plus cours depuis des siècles, le Dr Goussous est un milliardaire. Un milliardaire de connaissances, d'annecdotes et de passion: la seule vraie richesse; celle que l'on partage.

Jean-Marc Bordes

EN BREF

Eau. La crise du Golfe a aggravé le problème de l'eau potable en Jordanie, qui a dû consommer des millions de mètres cubes pour subvenir aux besoins de plus de 800.000 réfugiés qui ont officiellement transité sur son territoire depuis le début de cette crise. Cette quantité d'eau a été puisée dans les réserves de la Jordanie qui maintiennent ainsi leur ligne rouge. Selon le ministre de l'eau et de l'irrigation, Daoud Khalaf, la Jordanie aura besoin en l'an 2005 de 340 millions de mètres cubes d'eau de plus pour faire face à l'augmentation de la consommation, actuellement estimée à 730 millions de mètres cubes. La construction d'une dizaine de barrages pour la collecte des eaux de pluie est envisagée dans le cadre d'une stratégie sur quinze ans afin de répondre aux besoins futurs du royaume.

Territoires. Les Palestiniens des territoires occupés ont sorti les couteaux cette semaine, nant trois Israéliens et en blessant neuf autres, créant ainsi un lourd sentiment d'insécurité au sein de la population israélienne. Les dirigeants palestiniens des territoires occupés ont unanimement affirmé que ces attaques au couteau et même à la hache étaient des actes isolés de Palestiniens accablés au désespoir par l'impasse politique et la répression accrue. De leur côté, les autorités israéliennes ont prononcé pour quelques jours l'interdiction de séjour en Israël pour les 1,5 millions de Palestiniens confinés en Cisjordanie et dans la bande de Gaza. Elles ont également autorisé les militaires et les civils israéliens qui se sentiraient menacés à faire feu sur les Palestiniens qui leur jetteraient des pierres. Dans le même temps, Israël a refusé une nouvelle fois de recevoir une mission d'enquête de l'ONU sur la fusillade de l'esplanade des mosquées, au lendemain d'une nouvelle résolution de l'ONU «déploitant» son rejet de tout contact avec une mission du Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies, appuyée par une lettre de George Bush invitant Israël à accueillir cette mission. La commission d'enquête israélienne, elle, a remis son rapport sur ces événements au Premier ministre Yitzhak Shamir. Elle y critique la police pour n'avoir pas pris de mesures préventives en concentrant ses forces sur l'esplanade des mosquées et n'avoir pas déclenché l'état d'alerte lorsque la situation s'est dégradée. Elle en conclut que la vie des policiers sur le terrain était en danger, ce qui les a conduits à tirer sur la foule.

Liban. Le ministre libanais Moshen Dalloui a affirmé jeudi que les organisations armées palestiniennes ne sont actuellement pas concernées par le retrait des milices de Beyrouth et de ses banlieues, décidé la veille par le conseil des ministres. « La question palestinienne sera réglée ultérieurement et des contacts appropriés seront pris », a-t-il ajouté en soulignant qu'il sera interdit à un Palestinien de sortir armé des camps ou dans le grand Beyrouth. Il répondait ainsi aux propos tenus par l'ambassadeur des Etats-Unis à Damas, affirmant que les groupes armés palestiniens opérant au Liban devaient être démantelés dans le cadre de la dissolution dans les six mois des milices libanaises. Le représentant personnel de Yasser Arafat au Liban, Zeid Wehbi, avait estimé jeudi que la présence armée palestinienne au Liban a une spécificité et ne peut être assimilée à celle d'une milice. 350.000 Palestiniens vivent au Liban et les organisations palestiniennes disposent d'une dizaine de milliers de combattants, notamment au Liban sud.

Cha'moun. Huit jours après la chute du général libanais Michel Aoun, son plus puissant soutien politique, Dany Cha'moun, 56 ans, a été assassiné avec des membres de sa famille dimanche par un commando à son domicile près de Beyrouth. Chrétien maronite, fils de l'ancien président Camille Cha'moun - haute figure de la politique libanaise -, Dany Cha'moun présidait le Parti National Libéral (PLN) depuis 1985 et le Nouveau Front Libanais (NFL), un mouvement de soutien au général Aoun créé en mars 1990. Plusieurs milliers de Libanais ont participé aux funérailles de Dany Cha'moun et de sa famille mercredi au village de Deir al-Kamar dans la montagne du Chouf, sous la conduite du chef druze Walid Joumblatt.

Libération. Le Conseil national (parlement) irakien a annoncé mardi soir avoir donné son accord pour la libération de tous les ressortissants français retenus en Irak et au Koweït, à la demande du président irakien Saddam Hussein. Selon la résolution adoptée par le Conseil national, la décision de libérer les 330 Français a été prise « en hommage au peuple de France hostile aux démanches du président américain George Bush et en hommage à l'initiative du président François Mitterrand pour un règlement des problèmes de la région par des moyens pacifiques ». Les autorités françaises ont accueilli cette décision comme une bonne nouvelle tout en précisant qu'elle avait été prise unilatéralement par l'Irak et qu'elle ne remettrait pas en cause la solidarité de la France avec ses alliés dans le Golfe ni son intransigence sur le principe d'un retrait total du Koweït. Les Français sont attendus normalement aujourd'hui à Paris.

Normalisation. Les ministres des Affaires étrangères de la CEE ont décidé lundi à Luxembourg de lever leurs sanctions contre la Chine et l'Iran, mais de les maintenir à l'encontre de la Syrie. Cette décision autorise des rencontres de haut niveau avec la Chine et l'Iran. Elle autorise également la reprise de la coopération économique, scientifique et technique avec la Chine mais maintient l'embargo sur le commerce des armes et le gel de la coopération militaire avec ce pays. En revanche, la CEE va maintenir ses sanctions contre la Syrie: embargo sur les ventes d'armes, surveillance du personnel diplomatique et des activités de la compagnie aérienne syrienne. La Syrie avait été accusée par la Grande-Bretagne d'être à l'origine d'une tentative d'attentat contre un avion israélien au départ de Londres. La CEE avait ensuite pris des sanctions contre la Chine pour protester contre la répression sanglante du mouvement en faveur de la démocratie à Pékin de juin 1989. Les Douze avaient également sanctionné l'Iran après la condamnation à mort prononcée contre l'écrivain britannique Salman Rushdie en février 1989.

Défaite. Le camp anti-Bhutto a remporté une victoire écrasante aux élections législatives qui ont eu lieu cette semaine au Pakistan. Sur les 217 sièges que compte la chambre, l'All Pakistan People's Party (APPP), parti du Premier ministre Benazir Bhutto, a obtenu 105, contre 45 au PDA, parti du Premier ministre Benazir Bhutto, déchu officiellement pour corruption il y a quelques mois. La délégation d'observateurs étrangers chargée de surveiller le scrutin a estimé qu'il s'était déroulé sans fraude.

Retour à la normalité. Le président sud-africain Frederik de Klerk s'est déclaré prêt mardi à participer à un éventuel gouvernement dirigé par le leader noir Nelson Mandela comme à tout gouvernement dont le président serait élu selon la future constitution. Cette nouvelle constitution, qui abolira toutes les inégalités raciales en terme de droits, entrera en vigueur « avant la fin de mon mandat à la mi-1994 », a ajouté M. de Klerk.

Kadare. La France a accordé jeudi l'asile politique à l'écrivain albanais Ismail Kadare, qui en avait fait la demande en expliquant son « amère déception » de voir se dissiper tout signe d'une prochaine démocratisation en Albanie. Il a néanmoins fait part de son ferme espoir de retourner un jour dans son pays, une fois réalisée cette démocratisation.

Althusser. Le philosophe français Louis Althusser, décédé lundi à l'âge de 72 ans, avait été un maître à penser renouvelant l'idéologie marxiste. Sa vie avait été basculée en novembre 1980 lorsqu'il avait été élargi à la femme dans les locaux mêmes de l'Ecole Normale Supérieure à Paris, au cours d'un accès de psychose maniaque-dépressive. Hospitalisé, il bénéficiait d'un non-hu fondé sur la démenie au moment des faits en janvier 1981. Il était autorisé à quitter en 1984 l'hôpital psychiatrique. Il avait adhéré en 1948 au parti communiste français et avait proposé une nouvelle lecture de l'œuvre de Karl Marx, notamment dans son premier livre « Pour Marx » (1965).

Lycees. Plusieurs milliers de lycéens ont manifesté cette semaine un peu partout en France, contre l'insécurité dans leurs établissements scolaires et le manque de professeurs et de surveillants. A Paris, entre 5.000 et 20.000 jeunes, selon les sources, se sont rassemblés devant l'Assemblée Nationale, tandis que des manifestations importantes étaient signalées à Nice, Strasbourg, Lille, Saint-Etienne et dans plusieurs autres villes de province. Classes surchargées, vétusté des locaux, insécurité, manque de professeurs et de surveillants, les revendications sont partout les mêmes dans ce mouvement déclenché par plusieurs incidents graves (agressions, vandalisme) survenus dans plusieurs lycées français depuis la rentrée dernière.

LA SEMAINE... de Suleiman Sweiss

Assez de discours!

Depuis quelques semaines, de plus en plus de Jordaniens se plaignent de l'excès de verbalisme dans notre vie nationale. Dès le début de ce qu'on appelle la crise du Golfe, des dizaines de meetings populaires ont été organisés par des forces politiques; des centaines de communiqués et de déclarations ont été publiés par des partis, des syndicats et d'autres associations socio-professionnelles. Le leitmotiv en est presque toujours le même: affirmer le soutien des Jordaniens à l'Irak, dénoncer l'occupation de la péninsule arabe et du Golfe par les troupes américaines et atlantistes et appeler à la mobilisation générale. Il est certain que les centaines de milliers de Jordaniens qui ont participé aux rassemblements exprimaient leurs sentiments et leur détermination à défendre les causes arabes. Il est vrai aussi que l'atmosphère d'ouverture démocratique donne l'occasion aux partis politiques pour la première fois depuis deux décennies d'exercer leur influence sur les masses. Il est normal qu'on en profite et qu'on pratique cette forme de liberté, toute nouvelle pour de nombreux Jordaniens.

Mais, au fil des semaines, la « mode » des meetings a pris des proportions démesurées. Il y a eu des excès: un parti politique a publié des annonces dans les journaux-photos à l'appui pour dire que treize mille personnes avaient participé à son meeting. Quelques jours plus tard, un autre parti s'est senti agressé: il a fait publier une annonce « toujours avec photos » pour dire que soixante-dix mille personnes avaient assisté à son meeting. Cette surenchère est bien triste.

« A-t-on besoin de centaines de meetings et de banderoles pour dire que nous sommes solidaires de l'Irak? », se demandent ironiquement des confrères. Même la dénonciation des crimes israéliens connus récemment n'attirent plus l'attention dans cette cacophonie. Un meeting a été organisé la semaine dernière à ce propos au stade international d'Amman, mais le public est venu peu nombreux: dix mille personnes dans un lieu qui peut en accueillir cinquante mille!

Les discours et les communiqués deviennent révoltants, d'autant plus que tout le monde s'accorde à dire qu'en état de guerre, la Jordanie sera la première victime et qu'Israël ne cache pas ses intentions agressives et expansionnistes à son égard. L'embargo économique est presque imposé sur notre pays autant que sur l'Irak sans justification. Nous nous heurtons à un grand nombre de difficultés qu'on ne peut pas résoudre par des paroles. Certes, des mesures d'austérité ont été prises par le gouvernement. De même, l'entraînement à la défense civile et la multiplication du nombre de centres de l'armée populaire s'accroissent, mais cela reste encore très insuffisant par rapport aux dangers, aux besoins et à la panoplie de mesures possibles. Nous devons dire les choses franchement et clairement. Il nous manque une politique globale et cohérente pour défendre le pays. Il nous manque un plan qui définisse un rôle à chaque citoyen pour défendre son pays. Nous n'avons pas assez d'abris encore. Nous manquons encore d'expérience pour affronter les situations d'urgence. Il nous faut peut-être des répétitions. Qu'attendons-nous? Le front économique est aussi vital que le front militaire. A ce jour, nous avons élaboré un plan d'urgence pour le secteur agricole qui portera ses fruits dans un an. Qu'allons nous faire pour les autres secteurs? Nous devons relever le défi par l'action et je dirai même par l'action rapide. Les difficultés actuelles pourraient être une chance de guérir notre pays d'un grand nombre de maladies dont il souffre depuis tant d'années. C'est le moment de montrer notre courage, notre intelligence et notre détermination... à condition qu'on abandonne les discours!



Sans blague!

Le nouvel ordre arabe (suite)

Le président Bush et Sharif de Jordanie décideront de se rencontrer pour créer un nouvel ordre arabe, compatible avec le nouvel ordre mondial visant à réaliser la justice et l'égalité de par le monde. Lors de leur première rencontre, ils s'étaient entendus sur la réunification des Etats arabes en trois fédérations: l'Union de l'Afrique du Nord, celle de la Mer Rouge et celle du Croissant Fertile, ainsi que sur les formes des régimes politiques et économiques dans ces fédérations.

La rencontre d'aujourd'hui était destinée à s'entendre sur la sécurité de l'Etat hébreu, sur le problème des niveaux de production et de prix du pétrole, ainsi que sur certains autres problèmes qui continuaient à préoccuper Bush.

Concernant le soi-disant problème de la sécurité d'Israël, Sharif fit valoir, qu'une fois les frontières de cet Etat bien définies, il ne pouvait plus y avoir aucun problème du côté des Arabes: pour les Palestiniens en particulier, il n'y avait véritablement de problème que tant que ceux-ci n'avaient pas de patrie et tant qu'ils étaient empêchés d'aller en Palestine. Mais devenant citoyens à part entière d'une grande fédération, pourquoi chicaneraient-ils pour quelques centaines de kilomètres carrés, alors qu'ils auraient le droit d'aller visiter leur terre natale (en touristes au moins) quand bon leur semblerait? « Les Allemands, ajouta-t-il, n'ont-ils pas accepté récemment d'"oublier" plusieurs dizaines de milliers de kilomètres carrés qui faisaient jadis partie des territoires du Reich? »

« Néanmoins, conclut Sharif, l'intégrité et la sécurité de tous les lieux saints de l'Islam et de la chrétienté devront

être absolument garanties, ainsi que la liberté totale de culte pour toutes les religions. »

Bush acquiesça. « Le vrai danger ne provient certainement plus des Arabes », pensait-il. Néanmoins, les Sionistes seront bien obligés d'oublier leur projet du « Grand Israël » lorsqu'ils seront entourés de puissants voisins! D'ailleurs, il me paraît certain qu'Israël elle-même finira par demander à s'intégrer à l'un ou à l'autre de ses Etats voisins, l'Union du Croissant Fertile vraisemblablement, car l'avenir n'est plus aux petits Etats. »

Il faut rappeler que Sharif avait présenté lors de la première réunion un projet (accompagné d'un programme informatique) qui visait à déterminer le niveau de production obligatoire dans chaque champ pétrolier connu, ainsi que le prix du baril des différentes qualités de brut.

D'après la proposition de Sharif, le pétrole, patrimoine humain irremplaçable, devait subsister éternellement. Le niveau de production annuel devait être fixé au cinquième (au plus) de l'ensemble des réserves connues.

Ainsi, si de nouvelles réserves n'étaient pas découvertes durant l'année, le niveau de la production de l'année suivante devrait diminuer d'un peu moins de 2%.

Quant aux prix du pétrole, ils ne devaient pas suivre (selon le projet jordanien) les lois classiques de l'offre et de la demande. Ils seraient déterminés par le programme en fonction des prix de trois cents produits alimentaires, minéraux et industriels, ainsi d'ailleurs qu'en fonction de la qualité propre du brut.

En plus, d'après le programme, chaque pays aurait

droit à une quote-part de la production mondiale globale, déterminée en fonction du nombre de ses habitants, de ses particularités climatiques et du degré de son développement. Deux cents indices relatifs à chacun des pays du globe devaient être fournis à l'ordinateur (et remis régulièrement à jour) pour lui permettre de déterminer ces différentes quote-parts.

Ayant fait étudier le projet jordanien par ses experts et ceux de ses alliés et amis, Bush ne trouva rien à y redire; il l'accepta et il devint par la suite partie intégrante de la Charte des Nations-Unies.

« Le régime politico-économique que vous avez préconisé lors de notre dernière réunion ne pourra pas fonctionner d'une façon satisfaisante tant que le favoritisme et la corruption continueront à régner. Que proposez-vous pour les combattre? », demanda Bush.

« Tous les postes gouvernementaux et privés seront pourvus par voie de concours. Des tribunaux, à l'échelle départementale et fédérale, seront créés pour statuer, gratuitement et dans les plus brefs délais, sur les plaintes concernant le favoritisme ou toute autre forme de ségrégation. Les personnes reconnues coupables de l'un ou l'autre de ces méfaits seront très sévèrement punies », répondit Sharif. Il ajouta: « Quant au problème de la corruption, il disparaîtra certainement lorsque la fonction publique deviendra un privilège et non plus un refuge de ratés, et lorsque les employés seront payés suffisamment pour qu'ils puissent avoir avec leurs familles un niveau de vie acceptable. De toute façon, la corruption sera assimilée à la haute trahison, et des peines

extrêmement sévères la puniront. »

Un dernier problème tracasait encore Bush. Il craignait que le fondamentalisme religieux ne s'instaurât dans les nouveaux pays à très forte majorité musulmane.

Sharif, quoique musulman convaincu, avait personnellement en horreur le fondamentalisme religieux, qu'il savait avoir toujours été encouragé activement par Israël et par les agents de l'impérialisme rétro.

Comme l'avait d'ailleurs affirmé le Prophète, être croyant, pour Sharif, consistait surtout à se comporter dans la vie courante suivant les principes moraux de la religion; en particulier, il méprisait au plus haut point tous les Taruffe et les Phariséens qui manifestaient en public une piété sans borne, alors qu'en secret ils ne se gênaient nullement pour mentir, voler, envier, être intolérants ou commettre l'adultère: ceux-ci étaient les instigateurs les plus virulents du fondamentalisme!

« L'Islam, malgré l'opinion que le sionisme a su répandre en Occident, est avant tout « la » religion de la tolérance. Si le fondamentalisme a pu y trouver sa voie à travers l'ignorance, la misère le désespoir et la frustration, c'est bien en supprimant ces méfaits, ainsi que par une meilleure éducation scolaire et médiatique, que ce fléau sera complètement déraciné », finit-il par dire.

Les deux hommes décidèrent de se réunir une semaine plus tard pour discuter du problème qui tenait tant au cœur de Sharif, celui de l'endiguement de l'explosion démographique.

Sabri Farah



Grand cinq fois ce sceau qui représente un jeune soldat se révèle contenir quatre autres figures: deux hommes barbus dans le casque et deux visages imberbes dans l'épaule et la poitrine du soldat.

Portrait d'un homme d'affaires français

Antoine Riboud: un PDG inclassable

Dans un livre récent, Jean-Louis Servan-Schreiber, patron du groupe de presse «Expansion», et sa femme Perla, décrivent «Le métier de Patron» (paru chez Fayard) et tracent à cette occasion le portrait d'une dizaine de grands patrons français. Parmi ceux-ci Antoine Riboud, PDG de BSN, le numéro 1 français de l'agro-alimentaire, est certainement le plus étonnant, le plus inclassable.

Pour Antoine Riboud, c'est simple, il y a deux catégories de gens: «Ceux qui prennent des douches et ceux qui prennent des bains». Lui, il est «bain». C'est là que, le matin, il trouve ses meilleures idées. Et c'est donc dans son bain qu'il a eu la meilleure idée de sa vie: passer du contenant... au contenu.

Antoine Riboud avait commencé par diriger une entreprise de fabrication de verre (Boussios-Souchon-Neuvel: BSN). En 1968, le jeune PDG montre déjà qu'il voit grand en lançant une OPA contre le numéro 1 du verre, Saint-Gobain. C'est l'échec. Mais vite retourné par Riboud qui déclare que cet échec... fut la chance de sa vie!

Il raconte en effet, non sans jubilation: «Qu'est-ce que je vois? Que Carrefour, les grandes

surfaces, sont en train d'attirer les ménagères à la périphérie des villes. S'ils veulent vendre du liquide, ils vont devoir renoncer au système de la bouteille consignée (c'est-à-dire au verre BSN...). Qu'est-ce qu'ils vont faire? De l'emballage perdu, des emballages tous azimuts: plastique, carton, tôle, et là je n'y connais rien! Je ne vais tout de même pas me lancer dans le papier, la sidérurgie et la chimie!»

C'est alors qu'il a sa grande idée: passer de l'industrie lourde du verre aux produits alimentaires de grande consommation. Du contenant au contenu, donc. Ça, il peut le faire. Car, comme fournisseur, BSN est en relation avec tous les brasseurs, confitures, producteurs d'eau minérale de France. Antoine Riboud va donc dans ce sens et rachète à tour de bras.



Kronenbourg, Evian, Gervais-Danone, les Champagnes Lanson et Pommery, etc. Il se défait peu à peu des activités «verre» et passe «du verre à la bouffe» comme il dit. En vingt ans, la reconversion est totale. Aujourd'hui, BSN, avec 49 milliards de chiffre d'affaires, est le numéro 1 français de l'agro-alimentaire et le troisième européen dans ce secteur.

A part ses idées «généralistes», que, tel Archimède, il trouve dans son bain, comment fonctionne Antoine Riboud? «Comme un buvard. Un buvard c'est quelque chose qui absorbe tout ce qui passe. Moi, j'ai un cerveau buvard. Je passe ma vie à écouter et je retiens tout ce que j'entends.» Une des clés du personnage c'est en effet la curiosité: «Il veut tout savoir sur tout ce qui bouge».

Pour cela, il y a la valise de documents qu'il emporte chaque week-end. Il y a surtout le téléphone. Tout le monde sait que l'on peut m'appeler chez moi à partir de huit heures moins le quart, 365 jours par an. De fait, collaborateurs ou amis, tout le monde sera écouté avec la même attention. «Il ne fait jamais semblant d'avoir compris» note un proche. Enfin, il y a les trois avions Mystère-10 de BSN qu'il utilise 300 heures par an. Lisant, écoutant, voyageant énormément, Antoine Riboud finit par «tout savoir sur tout».

Une autre caractéristique de ce PDG globe-trotter, inséparable de sa curiosité insatiable, c'est bien sûr la mobilité. Il ignore la routine, «réinvente tout à chaque instant». Rien n'est figé avec lui, ni les structures, ni les hommes. De cette mobilité, de cette hantise de la bureaucratie, l'entreprise BSN est la première à profiter: son PDG lui évite la sclérose, garantit son renouvellement permanent. Riboud «veille, réveille, questionne inlassablement, pratiquant une sorte de ping-pong mental qui empêche les gens de s'assoupir».

Si BSN est devenu «Nestlé français» c'est précisément grâce à la souplesse d'organisation que lui a donné son PDG. Le principe, c'est celui des «ronds concentriques communiquants».

selon sa propre définition. Le premier rond c'est le rond central (quatre personnes, dont lui) où se décide la stratégie. Autour, le deuxième rond réunit les neuf directeurs de branches (biscuits, bière, eaux minérales...). C'est le secteur opérationnel. Le troisième «rond» regroupe les quarante sept directeurs de départements.

Avantage de cette structure: beaucoup d'autonomie. «Il faut que les gens s'amuse, qu'ils gèrent leurs affaires comme si c'était leur propre boîte». En revanche, les responsabilités sont clairement définies: «Seul le rond central (stratégie) peut décider où on met de l'argent. Les grands choix, les grands équilibres - donner la priorité aux marchés européens ou aux Etats-Unis, racheter une grosse société, défendre BSN contre les OPA - cela ne peut évidemment pas se déléguer.» Et Antoine Riboud conclut: «Je décentralise la fierté et je centralise les finances».

Grâce à cette organisation bien conçue, toujours en mouvement, BSN est devenue une des plus florissantes entreprises françaises.

Qu'est-ce qui pousse Antoine Riboud vers ces sommets? L'argent? Non, pour lui c'est un outil comme l'avion ou le téléphone. Le pouvoir? L'instinct de domination lui est étranger. Alors? Sa fille, qui le connaît bien, donne la réponse: «C'est le plaisir d'agir. S'amuser en ayant un succès après l'autre».

Reste l'avenir. Riboud est un jeune homme. Mais un jeune homme de 72 ans. Il a fait le nécessaire pour protéger sa société contre les autres puissances du secteur, Nestlé ou Unilever. Le capital, dont il ne possède qu'une partie infime, est entre des mains amies et si cependant on l'attaque «je peux trouver cinq milliards demain matin, en appuyant sur un bouton».

Antoine Riboud ne veut pas qu'on détruise son chef-d'œuvre: «BSN, c'est la cathédrale de Chartres! Je ne veux pas que cette maison soit découpée en rondelles de saucisson! Je veux bien devenir européen mais je ne veux pas qu'on m'achète».

Antoine Riboud se fait soudain grave et avoue: «Les centres de décision des grandes entreprises françaises doivent être protégés comme faisant partie du patrimoine français, sinon on assistera à une fuite des cerveaux bien plus grave que la fuite des capitaux».

Comme à son habitude, entre logique et intuition, entre instinct et réflexion, Antoine Riboud, ce patron inclassable, voit juste et loin. Et en cette époque de changements à l'est, il a d'ailleurs, bien entendu, pris immédiatement les devants pour renforcer encore sa société: BSN produit déjà des yaourts en RDA et négocie avec la Hongrie, la Tchécoslovaquie et la Pologne.

Gilles Rousset

BSN: une stratégie planétaire

Avec un chiffre d'affaires de 49 milliards de francs (contre 42,2 milliards en 1988), BSN a encore consolidé en 1989 sa position de troisième groupe alimentaire européen, grâce à une politique d'acquisitions et de rapprochements menée de main de maître. C'est ainsi que BSN est devenu le premier producteur mondial de yaourts, en fusionnant, en 1973, avec Gervais-Danone, le «grand» de l'industrie alimentaire française.

La litane des titres de BSN est impressionnante: premier producteur mondial de produits laitiers frais; deuxième fabricant européen de pâtes alimentaires; troisième groupe biscuiter dans le monde; deuxième brasseur européen; premier producteur mondial d'eaux minérales; troisième producteur de Champagne dans le monde; second en Europe pour la production de bouteilles et de flacons «grâce à la verrerie la plus moderne du monde, installée à Gironcourt, dans les Vosges».

Désormais implanté sur les cinq continents, BSN (42.000 personnes sur 150 sites de production) regroupe plus de cent marques parmi les plus prestigieuses dans le monde. Elle vend des yaourts aux Chinois et aux Japonais, de l'eau minérale aux Américains, de la bière aux Italiens, des biscuits aux Indiens, du Champagne au monde entier.

En 1988-89, le groupe a dévoré les sociétés biscuitières, Belin en France, Sals in Italie, Jacob's en Angleterre, les pâtes La Familla en Espagne, la brasserie Henninger Hella en Grèce.

Les responsables de BSN ont été les premiers à participer à la ruée vers l'est des entreprises occidentales. Ils installent actuellement, dans le nord de l'ancienne Allemagne de l'est, une usine de yaourts, de fromages frais et de desserts. Ils mettent au point en Hongrie un accord de coopération avec le principal groupe laitier du pays.

Enfin, dernières acquisitions et non des moindres, le rachat au groupe américain Nabisco de ses sociétés installées en Nouvelle-Zélande, à Singapour, en Malaisie et à Hong-Kong.

Il s'agit maintenant de digérer tout cela. Ce à quoi s'emploie le groupe actuellement. Avec la ferme intention de poursuivre une stratégie de conquête de marchés, épaulée par des efforts de recherche et d'innovation. Pour atteindre, en 1992, l'objectif fixé par Antoine Riboud: que BSN puisse satisfaire le plus grand marché du monde, soit 335 millions d'Européens, si l'on inclut dans la CEE les Allemands de l'est. Un formidable tremplin pour une stratégie planétaire.

Pierre-Albert Lambert

Anciens. «Le Jourdain» a le plaisir de vous annoncer la naissance de l'association des anciens étudiants jordaniens en France, qui tiendra sa première réunion au siège du CERMO (près du service économique de l'ambassade de France, à Jebel Amman), le samedi 3 novembre à 17h. Toutes les personnes concernées y sont les bienvenues.

PASSEZ-MOI MON FRANCAIS

La rubrique de Flavia Romero

Humanité

Ave Egeria,

Quatre hommes armés sont entrés à l'aube dans la maison de Dani Sham'oun et l'ont tué. C'est un crime, un geste mafieux, mais vu la sauvagerie de la guerre et surtout de la guerre civile, c'est un geste qui aurait pu être, malheureusement, qualifié de «normal». Mais ces quatre assassins ont tué sa femme et ses enfants aussi: deux garçons de moins de dix ans. Quelle haine, quelle rancune, quelle frustration, quel fanatisme ou pire encore, quelle indifférence ont pu amener la main et le cœur des quatre hommes pour leur permettre de perpétrer ce geste? Je pense à mon père que j'ai souvent vu soucieux, discuter avec ses collaborateurs et étudier jusque tard dans la nuit parce qu'un malade présentait des symptômes ambigus ou ne répondait pas comme il fallait aux traitements. Et souvent le malade était un pauvre bougre presque illettré, un de ceux qui sont chair à canon pour les fauteurs de guerre, un numéro qui «ne comptait pas». Est-ce que mon père était un «imbécile» de s'en faire autant pour une vie humaine? Je revois ses beaux yeux intelligents, je pense à son dévouement, à ses capacités, à sa culture. Je pense à une lettre que j'ai trouvée dans son portefeuille quand il est mort. Il n'en avait jamais parlé à personne. Vieille page jaunie, remplie de l'écriture de sa mère. La lettre datait du jour où mon père s'était inscrit à la faculté de médecine et grand-mère lui demandait de bien réfléchir à ce qu'il faisait. Son choix impliquait qu'il accepte son futur métier comme une mission et il ne devait jamais profiter du désespoir impuissant du malade et de sa famille pour s'enrichir. Elle aussi une «imbécile»? Et pourtant, je me la rappelle forte, capable, intelligente et généreuse. Qu'est-ce qui fait la différence entre mon père, sa mère et les quatre assassins de Sham'oun?

J'ai lu «By way of deception». L'histoire du chauffeur de Yasser Arafat m'a bouleversée. Cet homme qui a regardé son patron dans le blanc des yeux chaque jour, du matin au soir, avait été étudiant de philosophie; sa conversation pouvait donc avoir quelque intérêt; il n'était pas seulement le chauffeur et l'homme de confiance, mais l'ami, le confident du leader palestinien. Et tous les jours de sa vie, pendant des années, il l'a trahi. Pour de l'argent. Mon Dieu, nous sommes tous faibles, et rares sont ceux qui ne céderaient pas à la torture et aux chantages immondes. Pierre a trahi par lâcheté une fois, et il a voulu payer. Judas a trahi par avidité, une fois, et n'a pas été capable de vivre avec sa faute. «Imbéciles» eux aussi pour avoir connu le remords et le poids du péché? «Imbéciles» si on les compare à cet homme qui a trahi systématiquement, avec froideur, pendant si longtemps?

Il y a quelques années, j'ai connu un des hommes les plus riches du monde et sa femme. Sa fortune, on le sait maintenant, a été accumulée par tous les moyens: la trahison de son peuple et les trafics qui provoquent la mort de tant d'hommes. Je suis véritablement distraite et ne lis pas les journaux ni les revues: le nom du type ne me disait absolument rien. Devant mon regard vide, les personnes qui voulaient me le présenter ont pensé que je jouais les super-snoobs. Ce n'était que bête ignorance. J'ai serré la main du couple. Elle qui en principe est belle m'a semblé seulement terriblement triste. Elle portait une coiffure de soixante centimètres de haut et une robe qui, je suppose, sortait d'un très grand atelier de couture, mais qui donnait l'impression d'un truc arrangé tant bien que mal par la main d'un couteau de la solitude et la tristesse de qui la portait sentaient fort. C'était une aura épaisse qui l'entourait. Quelque chose en elle vivait encore, mais à peine, râlant, bien en deçà de la possibilité d'appeler au secours. Regarder son mari dans les yeux a été comme se heurter la tête contre une paroi de granit en arrivant à 300 km/h en moto-cyclette. Nous n'avons vraiment pas pu nous sourire: lui parce qu'il ne voyait aucune raison de le faire à quelqu'un qui ne lui était d'aucune utilité pratique, et moi parce que j'avais rencontré un trou noir. Et les trous noirs font très peur. Je l'ai tout de suite imaginé faisant du macramé avec les boyaux de sa grand-mère pour peu que cela ait pu augmenter son pouvoir d'achat.

Il y a quelque chose de terriblement grossier, informe et primitif dans tous ces gens-là. Ils sont façonnés à coups de hache. Nous en sommes encore à la mythologie, dans laquelle Géa, déesse mère, engendre par le Chaos les Titans et les Cyclopes, violents et anthropophages.

Si n'étaient les personnes heureusement nombreuses dont l'esprit et l'âme sont taillés avec le soin et la délicatesse d'une pierre précieuse, j'aurais honte d'appartenir au genre humain. Il me faut m'accrocher de toutes mes forces à mon acte de foi et vouloir croire que, malgré les assassins de Sham'oun et tant d'autres, l'Humanité Suprême aura raison du désordre, de la laideur et de l'infamie.

Vale, Egeria!

A L'AFFICHE

Cinéma et musique

Les sonorités du silence

D'emblée, il y a peu de raisons pour que le film d'Abel Gance «Un grand amour de Beethoven» nous captive. L'intrigue en est banale, le jeu largement guidé et, en tant que reconstitution historique, il nous livre trop peu sur le contexte culturel du grand musicien pour nous mettre dans l'ambiance de son époque.

Il y a tout de même de quoi s'instruire pour le cinéophile abordant pour la première fois une œuvre d'Abel Gance (1889-1981). Un grand amour de Beethoven - au Centre culturel français, le lundi 29 octobre - a des choses à nous dire sur ce grand maître du cinéma muet et l'un des pionniers de l'extension du langage cinématographique. On peut constater son goût (les sujets grandioses, qu'il qualifiait de «destins exemplaires»), son art (le montage rapide) et ses essais dans le domaine sonore.

A l'égard de sa conception, cette biographie musicale à laquelle il était très attaché est ironiquement sabotée par son propre scénariste. A travers ce «destin exemplaire», Abel Gance voulait nous présenter un homme ayant réussi à vivre son art malgré des circonstances épouvantables, mais la tentative d'accoupler cette idée avec un intérêt romantique et de donner une place centrale à un amour avorté affaiblit considérablement l'œuvre. Elle l'enlève dans une sentimentalité larmoyante et nous dévie d'une tragédie infernale: la surdité qui affligera ce musicien de génie.

L'intéressant, en revanche, est ce qu'il y a de manqué dans cette œuvre. L'intrigue mélodramatique prend malheureusement le dessus sur une tentative passionnante qui aurait pu être le vrai sujet du film et sur lequel Gance ne brasse les lumières que momentanément. Ces moments fugaces dépeignent le portrait d'un musicien souffrant d'une surdité gagnante qui retrouvera l'inspiration dans les images de la vie qui l'entourent, et qui deviennent sa seule fenêtre sensorielle. C'est dans les séquences où Gance s'engage à développer ce thème que le film se débarrasse de toute sentimentalité et prend un vrai essor, nous confrontant avec du cinéma pur. Par un montage chaotique, exécuté à allure vertigineuse, il nous définit les sonorités du silence. La symphonie émanant de la bande sonore ne sera qu'un approfondissement du monde intérieur du musicien tourmenté.

Tourné en 1936, Un grand amour de Beethoven était loin d'être la première expérience sonore d'Abel Gance. Il avait fait preuve d'un grand intérêt pour le son avant même que la bande sonore soit introduite dans le cinéma en 1927, donnant naissance au film parlant. Même à l'ère du muet - neuf ans avant cette introduction - le son faisait pour lui partie intégrante de l'image et c'est un de ses premiers films cherchant à réunir la musique et le cinéma, La dixième symphonie (1918), qui l'établit comme un des plus importants réalisateurs de son temps. A l'époque, il se lance dans l'inattendu. Jusqu'ici, les producteurs considéraient la musique, jouée dans la salle au piano ou par un orchestre, comme un simple accompagnement de l'horrible fracas de l'image, qui avait aussi le mérite de noyer l'horrible fracas du projecteur. Mais Abel Gance commanda une musique dont l'objectif était éminemment artistique. Les partitions qu'il commanda à Michel-Maurice Lévy devaient nous instruire sur l'état d'âme du personnage principal de l'intrigue, un compositeur; exprimer ses émotions et même faire le lien entre les comportements des autres personnages à son égard. Autrement dit, la musique assumait un rôle dramatique de premier ordre. Dans cet emploi de la partition, Gance fut un précurseur.

On retrouve dans Un grand amour de Beethoven ces trois éléments, mais ce qui était d'envergure dans le muet est réduit, dans le parlant, au banal, notamment dans les scènes qui impliquent que certaines compositions musicales furent inspirées par l'amour d'une femme. Il y a du faux dans la note. Que la musique soit directement liée à cette émotion est nié en partie par le jeu de Harry Bauer, dont le Beethoven est plus préoccupé par les notes tourbillonnantes dans sa tête que par l'amour. Dans ces scènes, l'interprète se trouve écartelé entre les exigences lyriques de son réalisateur et l'instinct qui lui dit que la musique de ce Beethoven avait d'autres sources d'inspiration.

Ce lyrisme - une caractéristique d'Abel Gance - suggère un Beethoven chancelant entre la femme qu'il aime mais qui déçoit ses espoirs, et une amante fidèle pour qui il ne ressent que de l'affection, et auprès de laquelle il se réfugie dans ses moments les plus désespérés. L'autre expression de ce lyrisme est reflétée par le jeu que Gance demande à ses deux interprètes, Annie Ducaux (la fidèle, Thérèse de Brunswick) et Jany Holt (Juliette de Gallebourg, le grand amour). Il nous semblerait exagéré et artificiel si on néglige de l'inscrire dans une tradition du cinéma muet, qui veut que tout comble d'émotions soit stylisé.

En présentant Abel Gance dans la série «Image et musique» avec Un grand amour de Beethoven, le Centre culturel français ne donne pas au cinéophile une vraie idée de l'accomplissement du cinéaste dans le domaine sonore. L'exemple idéal serait plutôt un film qu'il tourna muet en 1927 et sonorisé en 1934, Napoléon vu par Abel Gance. Il chercha en effet à doter son Napoléon d'une distribution spatiale du son digne de son sujet épique. Sa trouvaille s'appela la «perspective sonore», elle constituait les débuts du son stéréophonique au cinéma. Le verra-t-on bientôt?

Sami Kamal

EXPOSITIONS

Sciences. Le Centre britannique propose une exposition consacrée aux «parcs scientifiques». Ces parcs offrent pour les sociétés existantes et nouvelles utilisant la haute technologie, un environnement dans lequel elles peuvent avoir accès facilement aux recherches de pointe menées par les institut les plus réputés. Centre britannique, jusqu'au 31 octobre.

Architecture. Présentation photographique d'une sélection d'ouvrages (habitations, universités, villages de vacances, ponts, etc...) construits récemment aux quatre coins du monde par des architectes français. Centre Culturel Français, jusqu'à la fin du mois.

CINEMA

TELEVISION

DIMANCHE

«Un grand amour de Beethoven». Film d'Abel Gance, avec Harry Bauer. Dernier film de la série proposée par le CCF, «Images et musique». Tous ces films ont pour point commun d'accorder une place privilégiée à la musique, soit parce que les personnages principaux sont de célèbres compositeurs, soit parce que le héros de l'histoire est un fou de musique. Celui de ce lundi soir est une biographie romancée du grand compositeur Beethoven, tournée en 1936. Voir FOCUS.

Centre Culturel Français, le lundi 29 octobre à 20h.

17h30 - Téléfilm policier de la série «Coplan».

19h00 - Le Journal.

LUNDI

18h00 - L'oiseau des mers. Dessin animé.

18h10 - Denver, le dernier dinosaure. Dessin animé.

MARDI

18h00 - Scientifica. Les concepts scientifiques de base, manipulés par des enfants à travers des expériences simples. Cette semaine: les couleurs.

18h10 - L'école des fans. Des enfants interprètent le répertoire d'un chanteur célèbre, sous la houlette de Jacques Martin. Cette semaine: les meilleurs moments de l'émission en 1989.

MERCREDI

18h00 - Destination Santé. Série documentaire médicale, consacrée cette semaine à l'obésité.

JEUDI

18h00 - L'oiseau des mers. Dessin animé.

VENREDI

17h30 - «La chambre d'ami». Film français.

SAMEDI

18h00 - Les clés de Fort Boyard. Course au trésor exigeant des candidats courage physique et vaste culture.

LE SAVIEZ-VOUS ?

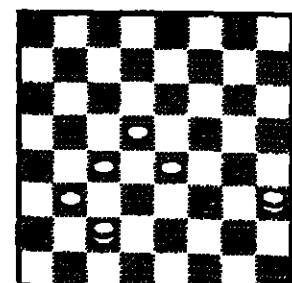
HERESIE. Un pasteur est-allemand, qui avait baptisé deux chats selon le vœu de leurs propriétaires, a été suspendu de ses fonctions par l'évêque de l'Eglise évangélique et luthérienne de Thuringe. Selon un porte parole de cette Eglise, le baptême des animaux est «une pratique hautement suspecte et même si les animaux font partie de la Création divine, la Bible enseigne clairement que seuls des êtres humains peuvent recevoir le baptême».

VOLCANS. Une chaîne sous-marine d'une dizaine de volcans très récents a été découverte sur 16 km dans le Pacifique, à environ 500 km des côtes de l'Oregon. Certains des volcans ont une trentaine de mètres de hauteur et un diamètre de 600 mètres à la base. Ils ont été découverts en août dernier, alors qu'une précédente mission, passée au même endroit en 1981, n'avait rien relevé, ce qui semble indiquer que ces volcans ont moins de neuf ans. C'est la première fois que des scientifiques sont témoins d'un tel phénomène.

BALLON. Deux astronautes, un Britannique et un Soviétique, ont réussi le premier vol sans escale en ballon entre la Grande-Bretagne et l'Union soviétique, soit quelque 2.200 km. Les deux hommes ont atterri en pleine forêt de Riga (capitale de la Lettonie) 47 heures après avoir décollé du Bedfordshire au nord de Londres. Ils devaient à l'origine se poser à Leningrad mais les conditions météorologiques ne l'ont pas permis.

DAMES

Problème N. 34. Les blancs gagnent en quatre coups.



Solution du problème N. 33:

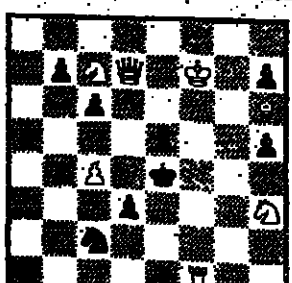
B. 20-16; N. 27-18; B. 16-12; N. 24-31; B. 19-14; N. 10-19; B. 11-7; N. 4-20; B. 12-16; N. 1-10; B. 16-5; N. 3-10; B. 5-21.

Solution du problème N. 34:

B. 24-20; N. 15-29; B. 20-27; N. 17-26; B. 14-10; N. 5-21; B. 27-30.

ECHecs

Problème N. 34. Mat avec les blancs en deux coups.



Solution du problème N. 33:

Db5-b1.

Solution du problème N. 34:

Cc7-b5.

Soviet miners set up first independent national union

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet coal miners have set up the first national trade union independent of the state and have threatened to call a strike unless the government improves their working conditions, media reports said Saturday. After a five-day meeting in the Ukrainian mining centre of Donetsk, coal miners' representatives voted Friday night to form the independent miners' union and elected an executive to prepare the first congress. Miners now have the choice of joining the new union or staying with the official one, the Communist Party daily Pravda said. The formation of an independent union is a major blow to the official miners' union, which has long been a mechanism for the implementation of Communist Party and government decisions. Delegates from leading mining areas demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov's government and threatened a civil disobedience campaign in December if grievances were not dealt with, the official TASS news agency reported. "And a general strike could not be ruled out," TASS said.

'Four killer Bs' plague Wall Street

NEW YORK (R) — Everywhere Wall Street looked this week, there was something to worry about.

Uncertainty over the Gulf crisis, signs of a weakening U.S. economy, tight credit and an elusive budget pact all conspired to unsettle investors and drive stocks lower.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 84.65 points — 3.36 per cent — during the week, to close at 2,436.14. That ate up much of the previous week's 123-point gain.

"I think reality took over again," said John McElroy, a principal at 1838 Investment Advisers, after hopes of a compromise Middle East settlement evaporated.

"When in doubt, back away," said Jack Solomon, a technical analyst at Bear Stearns. "Out of nervousness, people are staying light, but there's no heavy selling."

Hopes that a settlement was nearer in the Gulf pushed oil prices lower and the stock market sharply higher in the week ended Oct. 19.

But oil reversed course this week on fresh Mideast tensions, and each time stocks tried to rally, they were knocked down.

"With oil up, the equities are down," said Alan Ackerman,

Gorbachev decrees changes

MOSCOW (AP) — President Mikhail Gorbachev Friday ordered major strides towards a market-based economy, devaluing the rouble, allowing complete foreign ownership of companies and permitting citizens to buy securities.

The decrees, made under new powers granted him last month by the Soviet legislature, are part of Gorbachev's plan to transform the nation's centrally controlled economy to a free-market system.

The new commercial exchange rate for the rouble will go into effect Nov. 1, cutting the value of the Soviet currency by nearly 70 per cent to spur exports and reduce imports, according to a decree published in the government newspaper Izvestia.

A second decree signed by Gorbachev permits Soviet citizens to buy shares in enterprises, purchase bonds and hold other securities, either singly or in registered groups, the official Soviet news agency TASS reported.

That decree also says foreign investors can establish enterprises in the Soviet Union, either in joint ventures with Soviet firms or with 100 per cent foreign ownership. In the past, Soviet firms had to retain majority control.

Profits of foreign investors can be reinvested or transferred abroad under rules to be prom-

ulgated by the Soviet legislature, the decree said.

"Foreign investors on Soviet territory will enjoy legal protection, and conditions cannot be less favourable than the corresponding conditions for the property of Soviet organisations, enterprises and citizens of the USSR," the decree said.

The decree on stock ownership will have little immediate impact, because the Soviet Union does not yet have a stock exchange. However, officials have been discussing opening an exchange and recently sought advice from visiting representatives of the New York Stock Exchange.

The devaluation of the rouble affects only one of the two official exchange rates.

The new exchange rate for international commercial transactions will be 1.8 roubles per U.S. dollar, compared to the current \$6 roubles to the dollar.

The rate for foreign tourists exchanging money in the Soviet Union will remain unchanged, at six roubles to the dollar. The Soviet government introduced the lower tourist rate this year largely to combat black market activity.

Both of the official rates are set artificially by the Soviet government, and neither reflects the real worth of the rouble, either to companies trading shiploads of commodities or tourists trying to

buy a traditional Matryoshka doll.

On the black market, \$1 can fetch 15 to 30 roubles. Many international companies get around the artificial exchange rates by bartering goods, such as Pepsi for Stolichnaya vodka.

Still, the new exchange rate is somewhat more realistic than the old one and should make some transactions easier.

Ivan Ivanov, deputy chairman of the State Foreign Economic Commission, had warned earlier this month that a devaluation was coming.

It will "make exports more profitable for Soviet producers and facilitate the streamlining and restriction of imports, which have been growing rapidly since Soviet enterprises were granted the right of free access to the foreign market," he said.

Although the national legislature has not yet approved a detailed blueprint for the transition, it voted last month to give Gorbachev far-reaching power to order economic changes by decree.

Thursday, Gorbachev ordered state-run banks to pay higher interest rates on rouble savings accounts beginning Nov. 1, as a move to persuade depositors to keep their money in banks, despite the devaluation.

Philips announces big loss and massive layoff

EINDHOVEN, Netherlands (AP) — Shares of the Dutch electronics giant Philips tumbled Thursday after Chairman Jan Timmer announced the elimination of 35,000-45,000 jobs in a massive cost-cutting operation to ward off Japanese competition.

Timmer told reporters that jobs would be lost at all levels of N.V. Philips Gloeilampenfabrieken in a worldwide trimming programme to be completed by the end of next year.

He said at a news conference in this company town that Philips netted a 2.173 billion guilder (\$1.285 billion) loss from normal business operations in the third quarter of this year.

That's a spectacular drop from last year's profit of 227 million guilders (\$134 million) over the same period.

Timmer also said Philips would not be paying a dividend on its shares, adding "under the present conditions it is not justified."

The job losses, which amount to almost 16 per cent of Philips' work force of 285,700, come in addition to a restructuring operation announced last summer in which 10,000 jobs will go.

"Philips sales per employee are poor compared to the competition. We just aren't productive enough," Timmer said at the news conference.

Timmer did not specify in which of the 45 nations where Philips is active the job losses would occur, but observers believed most of the cuts would be in Europe.

"Announcements will be made by some of the managers in the countries concerned. We have left it up to them," he said.

Goodyear reports \$61m loss, to cut 3,000 jobs

AKRON, Ohio (R) — Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., the world's largest rubber manufacturer, has reported a \$61.4 million loss for the third quarter due to restructuring costs and said it would cut 3,000 jobs by mid-1992.

Goodyear, saddled with more than \$3 billion in debt, also said it would reduce its 1990 capital spending by \$100 million to about \$600 million.

The company, which has been suffering due to stiff worldwide competition and a lengthy slump in the U.S. automotive market, said the cutbacks were part of a general restructuring that would result in pre-tax charges totalling \$80 million for its second and third quarters.

Akron-based Goodyear said sales in the third quarter rose 8.2 per cent to \$2.9 billion. In the 1989 third quarter it earned \$70.5 million on sales of \$2.67 billion.

It said the cutbacks, which amount to 2.8 per cent of its work force of 109,000, were an attempt to make the company more competitive in the face of an industry downturn and increasing consolidation.

The company incurred substantial debt when it bought back about half its shares to ward off a hostile takeover bid by Anglo-French financier Sir James Goldsmith in 1986.

Tunisian central bank chief advocates faster liberalisation

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's central bank has recommended curbing food subsidies and faster liberalisation of imports, credit and labour practices.

In a message to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, central bank governor, Mohamed Beji Hamda said delays in some aspects of economic reform were making other reforms less effective.

He said, "the new disparities which result from these delays could make the process of adjustment more difficult and more costly, while the gaps between reforms in different sectors are likely to create opportunities for unjustified profit."

"The country's economy has not been able to evolve as foreseen and reach the stage where it is regulated only by market

mechanisms and where instruments of economic policy can be put in place with all the efficiency required," he pointed out.

"When the free play of the market is obstructed by lack of competition, adjustment mechanisms cease to operate," Hamda emphasised.

The message, a postscript to the bank's annual report for 1989, said some reforms under a 1986 structural adjustment programme had gone well but others had fallen behind.

The abolition of price controls, including those on subsidised foodstuffs such as bread, sugar and cooking oil, was one area subject to delay, he said.

The cost of the government's subsidies fund has risen from 275

million dinars (about \$360 million) in 1988 to 334 million (about \$370 million) in 1989 and a budgeted 390 million (about \$450 million) this year.

Hamda said there was still too much government interference in the domestic money market, where sectors such as agriculture continue to receive cheap loans from the state.

Another problem was that reducing tariff barriers for finished goods had not kept pace with tariff cuts for raw materials and capital goods.

"This makes the local market even more attractive for producers, and obstructs the reorientation of the production system towards foreign markets," Hamda said.

"Because of the rigidities which continue in the labour market, businesses are often unable to use different payment systems as a means to stimulate productivity and improve quality," the governor added.

Tunisia's labour laws, which give workers extensive protection, have been a constant complaint of businessmen.

Hamda, who was appointed in March, said the best way to avoid devaluing the Tunisian dinar, which would undermine confidence in the currency, was through strict control of money supply and inflation.

He set no target for money supply growth but said it should be compatible with growth in gross national product.

Algeria to raise basic pay by 66%

ALGIERS (R) — The Algerian government, bowing to pressure from trade unions, has decided to increase the minimum wage by about 66 per cent over a period of eight months, the official news agency APS said Friday.

Workers have staged a series of strikes in protest against rising prices and low wages. Under an accord signed with a major trade union, the monthly minimum pay would be raised in stages from the current 1,500 dinars (\$160) to 2,500 dinars (\$266).

The rises will be made in three stages starting from November. The union has been demanding a 300 per cent rise in wages but its secretary-general has welcomed the new agreement with the government. The government also promised to set up a national unemployment fund financed jointly by the state and the social security fund.

Spain grants Soviet Union \$1.5b credit

MADRID (R) — Spain granted the Soviet Union a \$1.5 billion credit Saturday as President Mikhail Gorbachev concluded two days of talks with Spanish government officials.

According to the text of the agreement, the three-year loan is intended to fund the purchase of Spanish goods and may be renewed at the end of the period if both sides agree.

The financial terms of the credit, described Friday by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez as a considerable sacrifice for his country, will be worked out later by government delegations.

Under the agreement, \$750 million will be available to purchase Spanish industrial and consumer goods, especially food, as well as intermediate goods for mass manufacture. The financial terms of this portion were not announced.

Another \$750 million, under normal Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) terms, will be used to buy Spanish technology and services for the food and agro-industries.

It will also cover the purchase of textiles, building materials, medicines, leather and shoes.

Delegations from the two governments will work out implementation of the programme. The agreement states the Soviet government will ensure repayments are kept up to date.

In a separate accord, Spanish Industry Minister Claudio Aranzadi and Soviet First Deputy Prime Minister Lev Voronin signed a protocol on industry and energy.

It calls for increased cooperation in light industry, food and farming, construction materials, mining equipment, shipbuilding, pharmaceuticals, mining and oil refining.

Spain will decide later on proposals to buy between two billion and six billion cubic metres a year of natural gas from the Soviet Union from 1995, the agreement said.

Bilateral trade currently favours the Soviet Union, which last year exported \$1.29 billion worth of goods, two-thirds of it oil. Imports stood at \$399 million.

Zambia hikes fuel prices by 80%

LUSAKA (R) — Zambia raised fuel prices by 80 per cent Saturday, bringing total increases to 200 per cent since August, and warned of still higher prices because of the Gulf crisis.

Zambia Industrial and Mining Company (ZIMCO), the country's oil importer, said in a statement that the price spiral sparked by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August was likely to continue.

The landlocked southern African nation should brace itself for higher petroleum product prices in the near future, it added.

Zambia imported crude oil from Kuwait at concessional prices before the invasion. After Iraq moved in, it had to get supplies from elsewhere, including processed oil from South Africa.

The fuel price rises sent the cost of other goods and services shooting up and sparked industrial unrest as workers demanded higher wages.

Zambia is working with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank on an austerity programme to pay off its \$7.2 billion debt.

Record stocks, poor demand weigh down wool market

LONDON (R) — Wool stocks, which have risen to record levels amid growing production and a slump in demand, are posing a significant burden on the world market for the first time in 40 years, the Commonwealth Secretariat has said.

Stocks carried over at the start of the current fiscal year which began July 1, are nearly four times the levels seen a year earlier, the secretariat said in its quarterly report.

"That represents more than 10 months requirements by the main importing countries and, for the first time since the immediate post-war period, constitutes a burdensome surplus," it said.

The report blamed current slump in demand on a number of factors including continuing troubles in China, the strongest growing market of the late 1980s, and a hard currency crisis in the Soviet Union.

Other factors are the impact on global economic growth of rising oil prices, and a strong Australian dollar.

Australia is the world's leading producer.

"The possibility of any short-term recovery in demand, sufficient to bring about a better world balance, seems remote at the present time," the report said.

Production is set to rise again in the current fiscal year, although the rate of expansion looks as though it will slow after

seven seasons of strong growth. The increase was largely attributed to a slight recovery in New Zealand's output, after three seasons of contraction due to drought and a greater exposure to world market conditions.

The secretariat said steps were being taken to discourage and further rise in Australian wool production, including the raising of the tax on sales to 18 per cent from eight per cent.

Farmers are said to have culled flocks with a number of unsaleable older sheep being slaughtered.

"It could well be that (Australian) sheep numbers will fall earlier and more sharply than was earlier predicted," it said.

PARIS (R) — Estonia has sold 60,000 tonnes of feed wheat to Israel in a move that underscores tensions between Soviet republics and growing commercial ties between Moscow and the Zionist state, grain traders said Friday.

It was not immediately known whether the sale was the first of Soviet wheat to Israel.

"The Soviet Union can export wheat this year because there are different republics that produce it," said Nikolai Neverov of the Soviet trade mission in Paris.

"If a free market is created, why shouldn't republics be able to export their wheat?" he asked.

Details of the recent sale were not available. But traders said the deal may have been done by barter.

The Soviet Union has long been among the world's biggest net importers of cereals.

But republics like the Ukraine and Estonia, which enjoy wheat surpluses, have sought to hold on to their merchandise in order to export it outside the Soviet Union, rather than sell it to republics short of cereals, they said.

China to raise grain prices for first time in 41 years

BEIJING (R) — For the first time in 41 years of communist rule, China plans to raise state-controlled grain prices, agriculture ministry officials have said.

A spokesman for the agriculture ministry said in an interview that prices would have to rise because grain subsidies were placing too heavy a burden on strained state finances.

"The ration price has been basically stable in China since the revolution, but we now plan to raise the price of this grain," said Zhang Shaoguang, senior spokesman for the ministry.

"We have not decided how much or when we will raise the ration grain price," he added.

The prices of all classes of grain — wheat, barley, rice, maize, potatoes and some beans — are

due to rise, he said.

For a people that can remember near-starvation after natural disasters in the early 1960s, grain is an emotive issue. "Grain is as important as heaven," runs one ancient saying.

About 50 million tonnes of grain, some 12 per cent of the nation's 407 million tonne record harvest in 1989, is being allocated by ration ticket to citizens at subsidised prices this year.

The rest is sold at free market prices or consumed directly from the fields by the nation's 800 million rural population. Free market prices of grain have roughly doubled since China began liberalising its agricultural system in 1978.

One kilogramme of rice cost 0.5 yuan (10 U.S. cents) with

ANNOUNCEMENT

Under Rule 22 of the Pakistan Citizenship Rules, 1952, every citizen of Pakistan residing abroad, is required to get him/herself registered annually, at the nearest Pakistani Mission. Pakistani nationals are, therefore, requested to do so as soon as possible.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, October 27, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	652.0	657.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	509.4	512.5
Pound Sterling	1278.6	1286.3	Dutch guilder	382.6	384.9
Deutschmark	431.2	433.8	Swedish crown	116.3	117.0
Swiss franc	510.3	512.4	Italian lire (for 100)	57.4	57.9
French franc	128.8	129.6	Belgian franc (for 10)	209.7	211.0

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2) SOUR GRAPES
Show: 5:15 only



Cinema **NUJUM** Tel: 675571

THE UNTAMED

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

RED SCORPION

Performances: 1:30, 6:30, 8:30

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

ONCE BITTEN

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238

Ahmad Zaki and Raghdah in

KABORIA

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30

Breakaway Turks surrounded in Moldovan conflict zone

MOSCOW (R) — Tens of thousands of nationalist volunteers Saturday surrounded Gagauz, a breakaway "nation" of 150,000 ethnic Turks in the southern Republic of Moldova, as the Soviet Union's latest ethnic crisis neared flashpoint.

Representatives of the two sides met in the border town of Chisinau, but the outlook for a peaceful resolution was uncertain.

There were reports of isolated arrests of Turkish activists.

The republic of 4.3 million people was known as Moldavia until this summer, when its parliament voted to change the name to Moldova, saying Moldavia was a Russian version.

The Gagauz people, Christian Turks who have lived in the region since the late 18th century, proclaimed independence in August, complaining of discrimination by the ethnic Romanian majority.

Witnesses said telephone lines into the Gagauz capital of Komrat were cut Saturday and petrol and other essentials were in short supply.

There were also unconfirmed reports that ethnic Russians — locked in their own struggle with the Moldovans and largely sympathetic to Gagauz separatism — were heading for the troubled districts.

Moldovan presidential spokesman Dumitru Tsyrba said his government had the situation firmly in hand after a display of strength

but no Moldovan forces had tried to enter Gagauz territory.

"There are about 30,000 to 40,000 volunteers in the area — if not more," Tsyrba said by telephone from the Moldovan capital, Kishinev.

He said the volunteer detachments of ethnic Romanians were backed by local police.

"All these forces are very well organized and under the full control of the government. Our policy remains at it was. We want to avoid any violence," said Tsyrba.

In Komrat, however, residents were preparing for the worst.

The Soviet government daily Izvestia said they were digging trenches and blocking roads with bulldozers and heavy lorries.

Factories work stopped and anxious parents pulled their children out of school. Men awaited a call to defend Gagauz territory, Izvestia said.

The flare-up adds another item to a long list of political and economic ills plaguing President Mikhail Gorbachev's "perestroika" reform programme, now bogged down in seemingly intractable regional rivalries and economic decay.

The Moldovan parliament Friday declared a state of emergency in its southern territory, abolished local government and set up a central commission to rule the region.

The moves were designed to head off trouble in connection with elections Friday to an independent Gagauz parliament,

branded illegal by the republic's authorities.

Further complicating the ethnic tangle was the wildcard role of the ethnic Russians, who have declared their own independent Dniester Republic around the industrial stronghold of Tiraspol.

The two minorities have formed a loose alliance against the Moldovan government and there are plans for direct economic and political ties between the two breakaway regions.

The daily Komsomolskaya Pravda said the Moldovan volunteers, armed with clubs and iron bars, were getting impatient.

"It is becoming more and more difficult to restrain them as the police presence is clearly inadequate," it said.

Moldovan Prime Minister Mircea Druk appeared on television and appealed for calm among the volunteer detachments, TASS news agency reported.

Meanwhile voters in the quiescent Soviet Central Asian Republic of Turkmenia went to the polls Saturday in the country's first general election for a republican president, TASS said.

But with the local Communist Party boss as the only candidate, the republic's recent election reform was unlikely to herald any real change in the hidebound politics of Soviet Central Asia.

Republican Party first secretary Saparmurat Meryazov, who is also chairman of the Turkmenia parliament, was the only candi-

date on the ballot, ensuring the region's pattern of uniting both state and party leadership in one man would remain unbroken.

The principal tribes of Turkmenia, which borders Iran and Afghanistan, all speak related Turkic languages. Many are Sunni Muslims.

The republic of 3.5 million is among the least politically active in the Soviet Union and has largely avoided the ethnic unrest that has swept other regions.

In Tbilisi, a Georgian politician who was wounded after a campaign rally said Saturday he feared Communist authorities were trying to start a civil war in the southern republic.

Gia Chanturia told the Associated Press he was wounded Friday afternoon by gunmen who fired four shots from a speeding car.

"I was saved by a miracle," Chanturia said as he recuperated from his wound. He was struck once in the left arm.

Chanturia, who is head of the National Democratic Party, is boycotting Sunday's election to the Georgian legislature. He was shot as he left a meeting organized by the Georgian National Congress, which was set up as an alternative to the republic's legislature.

The elections are considered important because they will mark the first multiparty elections under the reforms of Gorbachev.

No one has been arrested in the shooting, he said.

Indian premier faces party revolt

NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister V.P. Singh called a rally of party loyalists Saturday, trying to contain a rebellion within the ranks and to diffuse the growing pressure on him to resign.

Environment Minister Maneka Gandhi quit Singh's cabinet Friday and released a letter accusing the prime minister of failing to keep his pledge of "honesty and efficiency in government."

Mrs. Gandhi was the first cabinet minister to break openly with Singh since Tuesday, when a Hindu-Muslim dispute over rights to a holy site ballooned into the worst political crisis of the 10-month-old government.

Other dissidents of the governing Janata Dal Party pressed for a change of leadership, arguing that dumping Singh could avert the government's collapse and the need for an immediate national election.

In a speech to 2,000 party workers on the lawn of his home, Singh gave no indication he was ready to step down. He pledged his party would champion the downtrodden, as he said it had done since taking office in December.

Singh was elected largely on the votes of the middle and educated classes who were disenchanted with the Congress government led by Rajiv Gandhi. As prime minister, Singh adopted policies aimed at expanding support with the poor, alienating many of those who put him in power.

He was buoyed by chants of "V.P. Singh we are with you" and "long live V.P. Singh." Questioned briefly by reporters, he declined to comment on internal party politics.

At least 93 people have been killed this week in rioting between Muslims and Hindus and in police efforts to quell the disturbances. The two latest deaths were reported Saturday from a clash between police and a mob late Friday in Ranchi in the eastern state of Bihar.

Police clamped an overnight curfew on Ayodhya, site of the disputed holy place, and on the neighbouring town of Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh state Friday. Thousands of police reinforcements have been sent to the Hindu holy town 500 kilometres south east of New Delhi.

N. Zealand's National Party routs Labour

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — The conservative National Party capitalised on a faltering economy to end Labour's six-year rule in the biggest election rout in New Zealand history Saturday.

National Party leader Jim Bolger, 54, who left school at 15 to work on the family dairy farm, easily won a three-year term as New Zealand's 35th prime minister. He immediately talked of reconciliation.

"To the many thousands of New Zealanders who for a variety of reasons did not support us, can I extend the hand of friendship, because together — and it must be together — we now go forward to serve the best interests of our country and its people," Bolger said in his acceptance speech.

"As far as I'm concerned, from tonight, the politics of inclusion begins. I want to include everyone in the great challenges we face... because we know there are some awesome challenges, some awesome challenges facing our country."

Prime Minister Mike Moore conceded defeat when he phoned Bolger at 9:20 p.m. (0820 GMT), less than 2½ hours after the polls closed.

"I wish you well. You worked hard for it," Moore said. He later told downcast supporters: "I have no malice. I have no bitterness."

Nearly 70 parties, nine of them considered major, were contested various elections nationwide. Many carried obscure names like Swinging Voters Outlets, Withered Party, Legalize Marijuana and Citizens Against Political Parties that had no chance of winning anything but attention.

Mandela arrives in Japan

TOKYO (R) — Nelson Mandela arrived in Japan Saturday, avoiding direct comment on a row over an anti-black racist remark by Justice Minister Seiichi Kaifu.

During his six-day visit, Mandela will seek financial support for his African National Congress (ANC) and urge Japan not to lift economic sanctions against South Africa until blacks get the same voting power as whites, an ANC spokesman said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Taro Watanabe has said Japan is considering lifting sanctions in view of positive reforms by South African President F.W. de Klerk.

Mandela said he believed the Japanese government could handle the controversy sparked by Kaifu's remark against black Americans. Opposition parties and the

Final, unofficial results showed National was likely to win 68 seats in the 97-member parliament to only 28 for Labour and one for New Labour. A handful of seats were close enough that they still could be decided by absentee ballots. Several cabinet ministers were among the Labour casualties.

National polled 48.7 per cent of the vote to 34.5 per cent for Labour. The Green Party, a relatively new political group that as part of its policy has no official leader, was third with 6.65 per cent, to 5.2 for New Labour. Of the 2,158,966 registered voters, 1,636,184 — 75.8 per cent — cast ballots.

Labour had a 56-40 majority in the outgoing parliament. New Labour held the remaining seat.

The Nationals came on strong since their 1987 election defeat. They have dominated opinion polls the last two years, largely due to widespread disenchantment with Labour over high unemployment, slow growth, high interest rates and other economic woes.

David Lange, the Labour prime minister who spearheaded the "no nuclear policy" that led to an estrangement in ties with Washington, said the reason for the landslide was clear.

"The country was put through a considerable programme of change which in the first three years (of Labour's reign) was seen and accepted as necessary," said Lange, who resigned 15 months ago, citing health reasons. "In the next three years, it was more than people could cope with."

3 pilots sentenced for drunken flying

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota (R) — Three former Northwest Airlines pilots convicted of flying a jet liner, with 91 passengers aboard, while drunk were sentenced to jail terms ranging from 12 to 16 months. The case was the first in which the government brought criminal charges against airline pilots for drunk flying, and had been closely watched by the aviation industry.

Norman Prouse, 51, an ex-Marine combat veteran who was the pilot, was sentenced to 16 months in jail. Robert Kirchner, 35, the second officer, and Joseph Balzer, 34, the flight engineer, were each sentenced to a year in jail.

Lawyers for the trio had contended their performance was not impaired, and the fact that the March 8 flight from Fargo, North Dakota, to Minneapolis was uneventful proved that. The three could have been sentenced to as much as 15 years in prison and fined \$250,000. "This behaviour was wrong and you knew it and you did it," Judge James Rosenbaum of the U.S. District Court said in imposing the sentences.

"The hand that will punish you is mine but the hand that strikes you is your own. Did you think about your passengers? Your failure to live up to your profession," he added.

Dallas dresses nude figurines

DALLAS (R) — Dallas fitted three clay figurines of nude women on display in its city hall with fig leaves after a female employee complained that they were "too anatomically correct." Texas sculptor Future Atkins said the cover-up of her artwork was silly. City parks director Frank Wise said that although other nude statues were on display nearby, Atkins's 7½-inch (19-cm) figurines of women in Yoga poses were offensive. "One of our employees felt that one of the exhibits was — how did she put it — too anatomically correct, or too anatomically accurate," Wise said. "I think it's absolutely silly," said Atkins.

Old stamp collection sold for \$1.92 m

LONDON (R) — A collection of stamps printed before the unification of Italy and found virtually untouched in an old mine in the United States fetched \$922,877 (\$1.92 million) at a London auction. Auctioneers Phillips said the "Alphonse collection of Pontifical stamps" had been collected in Hungary at the turn of the century and discovered in an iron ore mine in New York state, where they had been since 1920. Before the unification of Italy in 1870, each independent state issued its own postage stamp which could only be purchased within the state of issue. The Pontifical stamps sold were issued in Rome by the Vatican, covering the states surrounding Rome, and are considered classic issues. A Swiss collector paid \$220,000 (\$430,300), slightly above the highest estimate, for a sheet of 50, one Scudo stamps printed in carmine rose, with some stamps bearing curious and rare printing errors. One stamp had been put upside down in the plate at the printing stage. The prices included a premium of 10 per cent. The British record for a sheet of stamps was set in November 1989 when a block of 36 "penny blacks" the first adhesive postage stamps printed in 1840, fetched \$308,000 (\$603,100).

'Little doll' held prisoner in closet

LOS ANGELES (R) — The parents of a 12-year-old girl who police described as cute as a "little doll" were in jail accused of keeping their daughter imprisoned in closets crawling with insects for the past 10 years. A police spokesman said the girl was found in a filthy, cockroach-infested four-foot by five-foot (1.2 metre by 1.5 metre) closet in a working class neighbourhood of San Bernardino, a suburb of Los Angeles, by child abuse officers investigating an anonymous tip. "There are thousands of child abuse cases in this country, and I've never seen anything like this. It was disgusting. Her little world was 20 square feet (two square metres)," said Steve Filson, one of the officers. The girl, not named by police, was found barefoot in her cupboard, lit by a single bulb and littered with human waste, fast food wrappers and crawling with cockroaches and other insects, a police spokesman said.

Senate approves defence spending bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate has given final congressional approval to the nation's first post-cold war defence budget, a \$268 billion package that embraces modest cuts in weapons systems geared to the Soviet threat.

By a vote of 80-17, the Senate adopted legislation that represents a \$14 billion reduction from spending in the last fiscal year but is far less than the reduction Congress clamoured for when the Warsaw Pact was collapsing.

"This budget has as its primary goal to help protect our nation

against the threat that we face in a dangerous world," said Sen. Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

He cited the Soviet Union's continued modernisation of its strategic forces and Iraq's conquest of Kuwait as the argument against drastic cuts in military spending.

An opponent of the legislation, Sen. William Roth, said the budget fails to reflect "the most startling political developments in the Western World since the end of World War II."

"Congress... is no longer a new breed of budget-cutters but cold war warriors," Roth said.

The legislation now goes to the White House, where Bush's approval was anticipated. Shortly after the vote, the Senate adopted the budget's companion authorisation bill.

The bills fail to terminate any weapons in the Pentagon's arsenal and continue limited production of the B-2 bomber, the Stealth aircraft built to locate targets in the Soviet Union after a nuclear war.

18th man killed in N. Ireland

BELFAST (Agencies) — A Catholic man was shot dead in Northern Ireland Friday, bringing the death toll in sectarian violence in the province to 18 in less than three weeks.

Police said the man was visiting friends near Cookstown, County Tyrone, when he was gunned down.

Three gunmen were believed to have carried out the attack and then escaped in car. Police said they did not think the victim had any links with security forces.

Northern Ireland has been hit by a wave of gun and bomb attacks over the past three weeks. Eighteen people have been killed in the past 19 days, including six British soldiers blown up by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) in a double checkpoint attack.

The IRA Friday threatened more attacks against civilians working for the British military after turning a Defence Ministry worker into a "human bomb" this week.

Police identified the man as Patrick Gillespie, 42. He was killed Wednesday when IRA gunmen forced him to drive a (454 kilogram) bomb into a military checkpoint near Londonderry, Northern Ireland's second city.

Five soldiers also died in the blast. "Those involved in such work should desist or be prepared to suffer the consequences," the IRA said in a statement. It was sent to the Belfast office of the British domestic news agency, Press Association.

A simultaneous bombing by the IRA at Newry, 160 kilometres southeast of Londonderry, killed sixth soldier. A bomb failed to explode in a third attack.

9 suspected Communist rebels arrested in Philippines

MANILA (AP) — Government troops arrested nine people accused of being Communist rebels who directed this week's violent nationwide strike against President Corason Aquino's government, the military announced Saturday.

Also Saturday, soldiers killed two suspected terrorists in a car chase and another terrorist accidentally blew himself up when a bomb he was holding exploded in Manila, the military reported.

Elsewhere, Communist rebels burned a bus in the southern Philippines, the 21st vehicle torched by suspected extremists since the general strike over wages began Wednesday. The walkout, called by leftist unions, was suspended Friday but was marked by attacks on public transport.

In an interview with reporters outside the capital, Marxist leaders claimed responsibility for five of nine vehicles burned in the Manila area this week. The rebels suspected the military of burning the other vehicles to discredit the strike.

In another development, about 5,000 militant workers marched to Mrs. Aquino's presidential palace in central Manila for the second day, but no incidents were reported.

Col. Agencio Kagaosan, chief of the constabulary security group, said the nine accused of being rebel leaders were arrested in six different houses around Manila this week, including a house just two blocks from the armed forces headquarters in suburban Quezon City.

Kagaosan said they were members of the National Operations Commission and the Manila-area committee of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines.

Troops seized several sticks of dynamite, handguns and C-4 plastic explosives from the group, which is believed responsible for overseeing the three-day strike that ended Friday, Kagaosan said.

He said the presence of plastic explosives prove the links between the Communist rebels and renegade troops out to topple Mrs. Aquino because the material is only available to the military.

Havana opens dialogue with moderate Cuban exiles

MIAMI (Agencies) — Cuba's vice president said his government has opened a dialogue with moderate exile groups which seek a transition to democracy and the peaceful replacement of President Fidel Castro.

Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez's comments were broadcast on Cuban state radio and monitored in Miami Thursday, a week after a coalition of moderate exile groups publicly invited discussions about democratising the Communist island nation.

Rodriguez said Cuba shunned contacts with more militant anti-Communist exiles in Miami but confirmed the government has opened discussions with moderates, whom he did not identify.

He said those exiles propose "to liquidate Fidel Castro (through) dialogue. They are offering talks," the Miami Herald reported.

In Washington, U.S. State Department officials said they believed it was premature to suggest the Cuban leadership was open to democratic reform, but the Rodriguez statement was potentially significant. The officials spoke with the Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

In Miami, Carlos Alberto Montaner, whose exile party be-

longs to the moderate Cuban Democratic Platform umbrella group, said his organisation has met with Cuban officials to seek a solution to Cuba's mounting problems.

"There have been indirect contacts with Carlos Rafael and other important officials in the regime," Montaner said. "We all agreed that the era of Castro's Communism has reached its end, and that we must look for a Czechoslovakian solution before intransigence imposes a Romanian solution on us."

Montaner referred to the peaceful transfer of power from Czechoslovakia's Communist leaders to the current democratic government, in contrast to the bloody Romanian revolution that led to the execution of former Communist leader Nicolae Ceausescu.

In the long interview, the Cuban vice president divided the exiles into three groups.

He criticised the "reactionary and ultrarightist" wing headed by Jorge Mas Canosa, who leads the powerful Cuban American National Foundation, and Armando Valladares, U.S. representative to the U.S. Human Rights Commission. A second group, he said, consisted of people trying to return to Cuba for

irreversible," he told a news conference.

Defence Minister Guy Coe said two Belgian Hercules transport planes would be stationed in the Kenyan capital Nairobi after the pullout in case Belgian civilians who stayed in Rwanda had to be evacuated quickly.

The ceasefire, brokered in two peace missions to the region by Martens, Eyskens and Coe, started earlier this week.

The Rwandan government has accused the rebels of breaching it, but Eyskens said Rwanda was calm Saturday morning.

The Belgian government said it would urge the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and other African countries to set up an African intervention force rapidly to protect the truce.

Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana and the leaders of Uganda, Zaire and Burundi agreed Friday to create a military observer group including representatives from both sides in the conflict and from Rwanda's neighbours, to monitor the ceasefire.

The four regional leaders, meeting in the Zaire town of Gbadolite, also said they had mandated Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, current president of the OAU, to take charge of forming an African Ceasefire Monitoring Force.

Martens reiterated that Belgium was willing to provide financial and logistical aid to the observer group and the intervention force and hoped European partners would do the same.

The third group, which he did not identify by name, consists of "ex-reactionaries" who have abandoned violent strategies.

"We are increasing relations with the third group," he said. "There is an ongoing process."

Mas dismissed Rodriguez's comments about his group, saying the foundation and Valladares were with the U.S. government "to bring liberty to Cuba."

He said he was not aware of Cuban government conversations with other groups.

Meanwhile a senior Cuban official said Friday Cuba was ready to declassify and reveal secret documents and correspondence from the October 1962 Cuban missile crisis if the Soviet Union and the United States agreed to do the same.

"We have nothing to hide. We're not frightened of the historical truth," Jorge Risquet Valdes, a member of the ruling Communist Party politburo, told Cuba's state Radio Rebelde.

"If there is reciprocity, Cuba is ready to declassify its own documents and other material evidence," Risquet added.

He said the U.S. government was resisting legal proceedings brought by U.S. academics aimed at forcing it to make public classi-

Hungarian crisis deepens as drivers' strike goes on

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungarian truck and taxi drivers incensed over huge petrol price rises Saturday rejected a presidential compromise aimed at ending a nationwide blockade.

Drivers barricading all major roads and border crossings turned down a suggestion by President Arpad Goncz that they lift the blockade in return for suspension of the price of up to 65 per cent.

"The crisis staff of the Truck Drivers' Union issued a statement in which they appeal for the blockade in Budapest and the whole country to be maintained," the Hungarian News Agency

(MTI) reported.

Interior Minister Balazs Horvath, deputising for Prime Minister Jozsef Antall who is unwell, said dwindling petrol reserves would cause the economy to collapse within days if the centre-right coalition government abandoned its tough line on prices.

"Our decision was made and is irreversible," he said Friday.

The blockade, which began Thursday night, cut access to the frontiers with Austria, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia, and closed all but one of the bridges across the Danube in Budapest.

Court sentences Washington mayor to 6 months in jail

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mayor Marion Barry was sentenced Friday to six months in prison, fined \$5,000 and given one year probation for his conviction on a misdemeanor cocaine possession charge.

Barry declared himself "truly remorseful" and asked U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson for leniency. But Jackson told the mayor of the U.S. capital he had abused his office and the collective trust of the community.

"Having failed as the good example he might have been, the defendant must now become an example of another kind," Jackson said.

The sentencing followed a 10-month legal drama that began with the mayor's arrest on Jan. 18 in a FBI sting operation that caught him on videotape smoking crack cocaine with a former girlfriend. The night before sentencing Barry, in a letter to the judge, said he was a "recovering alcoholic and drug addict."

Experts to debate possibility of life on the planet Mars

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — Scientists from the United States, the Soviet Union and Europe will gather at the weekend to explore the possibilities, or dismiss the theories, of life on the "angry red planet," Mars.

Experts are divided into three camps — those who think Mars never could have supported life, those who suspect some type of microscopic bacteria do live on the planet, and those who believe that life did exist on Mars but is now extinct.

"We expect some fireworks because of the widely differing opinions about the existence of life on Mars," said Dr. Imre Friedmann, organiser of the conference at Florida State University. Friedmann has published research raising the possibility that primitive martian life forms lived and died, similar to lichens found thriving in Antarctic rocks.

Finding an answer to the question "are we alone?" is essential before humans can set foot on Mars, scientists say, to protect both human explorers and the martian environment from alien intrusions.